

Major's new look for higher education

Tories to give polys the status of universities

By DAVID TYTLER AND JOHN O'LEARY

THE distinction between universities and polytechnics is to be abolished as part of a package of education and training reforms presented by the prime minister yesterday.

John Major put his personal stamp on the presentation of the government's two white papers to shake up education for all students aged over 16. The prime minister, who has said he wishes to create a classless society, said that the changes would be the main strand of the Conservative general election campaign.

"At the heart of our reforms is the determination to break down the artificial barrier which has for too long divided an academic education from a vocational one," he said. Jack Straw, the shadow education secretary, said: "Close examination of these statements will show this is a government which is running out of ideas as quickly as it is running out of time."

The government said that

The main recommendations in the white papers are:

- Single funding structure for universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher education.
- Polytechnics may use the title university.
- National vocational qualifications to be introduced quickly.
- Sixth forms may include part-time and adult students.
- All 16 and 17-year-olds to get training credit on leaving full-time education.
- All further education colleges and sixth-form colleges to be independent of local authorities.

any polytechnic that wishes to do so would be able to call itself a university, and there would be a single funding structure for universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher education. Higher education funding councils in England, Scotland and Wales would distribute public funds for both teaching and research.

Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that he expected the polytechnics to continue to concentrate on applied research while pure research would be left to the traditional universities. The government's proposals for higher education were outlined in its white paper, *A new framework*.

Mr Major emphasised that the change would not result in a lowering of standards. "We want to see both the academic and the vocational approaches attracting the same status and esteem. This will help us build on the excellent progress we have made in attracting more young people into higher education." In 1979, he said, only one in eight young people went into higher education, today it is one in five, and the government intends to increase the figure to one student in three by 2000.

The government white paper for reforming education and training for all teenagers aged over 16, *Education and training in the 21st century*, proposes that schools will be allowed to recruit part-time and adult students into their sixth forms. The paper says this will "give schools more revenue and will enable them

to use their resources more efficiently".

The government says that part-time students under 18 would be able to use their new training credits to pay for the courses, but the scheme would not be compulsory. The government hopes that it will be available to all eligible teenagers by 1996. However, Mr Straw attacked the plan: "Fee charging for under 18-year-old part-timers is a fundamental breach of the principle of the 1944 act which made schooling free. Ability to pay will play a large part in determining the entry of part-time students. Opportunity Britain turns out to be part-time students being charged for their education," he said.

Mr Major said: "In the past too many 16-year-olds had been made to feel that further educational training is not for them. As a result we have too many young people without the skills or motivation to get off to a good start in their working life. We are going to streamline our system of vocational qualifications."

The government said that A-levels would remain the "benchmark of excellence", but schools would be encouraged to offer a mixture of vocational and academic courses. The white paper includes two new diploma certificates to cover a mixture of courses, which could be used as entry qualifications to further training and higher education respectively.

The prime minister insisted that the new proposals would not lead to a reduction of standards.

White paper details and analysis, pages 4, 5
Leading article, page 15



Soviet citizens free travel law is passed

FROM MARY DELEVSKY IN MOSCOW

AFTER a year and a half of prevarication, not to mention several centuries of imprisonment under Tsars and Communists alike, Russians and other Soviet citizens have finally gained the right to enter and leave their own country freely — but not quite yet. The historic law, which was passed in principle by the Soviet parliament yesterday, will come into force fully only on January 1, 1993.

Soviet diplomats are now expected to lobby hard to con-

vince the West that the main battle for free travel has been won. Passage of the entry-exit law was a condition set by the United States for the renewal of the Soviet Union's most favoured nation status. It is also a factor that will help determine whether Western countries, including Britain, attend the Helsinki follow-up conference on human rights

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Leading article, page 15

Sir Stormin' scales the protocol parapet

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN TAMPA, FLORIDA

DEALING with Saddam Hussein was a "piece of cake" compared with the complexities of dealing with a royal visit, General Norman Schwarzkopf said after he was knighted by the Queen yesterday.

He received the small gold ball-tipped Maltese Cross and silver star which allows him to add to his name the title of Honorary Knight Commander of the Bath. The citation, read to him by the Queen in a private ceremony, was "for distinguished leadership of the allied coalition forces".

General Schwarzkopf had greeted the Queen at his sordid headquarters after torrential rain that gave a new lease of life to his "Stormin' Norman" sobriquet. In front of the British and American flags the Queen handed the

general his award before touring the base to the accompaniment of seagulls and F16s. The general said that the insignia of the Bath, which, if the American government allowed would be added to his existing seven rows of medals, was "a wonderful honour". But the greatest honour, he told the Queen, was leading British troops and the moment when American mothers and fathers entrusted their children to his command.

Americans have had to go through a crash course in the subtle gradations of British honours. General Schwarzkopf's KCB is lower, they are told, than the GCB which President Reagan received. The former president not only received a bigger badge but is entitled to a crimson sash and mantle lined with white taffeta.

The KCB is more desirable, however, than the KBE awarded in the past to Americans such as Douglas Fairbanks Jr. The KCB, which General

Schwarzkopf received, was also given to the two US commanders in Korea, Generals Mark Clark and Matthew Ridgway. No holder of an honorary knighthood can style themselves "Sir", although General Schwarzkopf told reporters that some of his friends might "Sir General" him now.

During her tour of McDill air force base the Queen was given a rare guide of the room from where the Gulf War was fought — a small suite, divided like a radio studio, in which TV monitors still highlight the second most advanced state of false alert. If there had been any emergency, officials said she would have been escorted away to avoid showing her classified information. A secret map of the Gulf was kept curtained.

The Queen left Florida for Austin, Texas, where she recalled earlier British heroes who fought for Texas at the Alamo, which she will later visit.



Waldegrave at Harrogate yesterday: "For the first time in the UK we will have local health strategies, properly made"

Key role for Tory chief whip

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major has reacted to the government's recent difficulties by enhancing the responsibilities of Richard Ryder, the Tory chief whip.

Mr Ryder, a close friend of the prime minister, is acting as his "trouble-shooter". Whitehall sources disclosed last night.

Mr Ryder, first elected in 1983, was once political secretary to Margaret Thatcher and is seen as an important bridge between the Thatcher and Major leaderships. His increased role involves him in co-ordinating the work of ministers from different departments and ensuring that ministers are always available to handle contentious issues when they are raised publicly.

He is sitting on more Cabinet committees so that he knows what is going on in all parts of the government and can spot potential trouble areas well in advance. A senior source said of Mr Ryder: "He has always been close to the prime minister. He is around a lot — something of a trouble-shooter."

In the Commons, Mr Ryder has been quietly improving Conservative morale in preparation for the election, trying to ensure that factions formed during the leadership campaign are broken up.

Conor Cruise O'Brien, page 14

Waldegrave unruffled as nurses criticise reforms

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave, the health secretary, yesterday rejected nurses' calls to slow down implementation of the NHS reforms amid claims that they were leading to patients' suffering and confusion in the service. However, he insisted that the internal market would be regulated and the government would intervene to protect research and teaching in London.

Speaking at the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress in Harrogate, Mr Waldegrave refused to be ruffled by the present row over NHS trusts. He insisted that the reforms were "right" and that backing off them now would cause greater uncertainty and confusion. "It would be far worse for health service workers of all kinds if the wholly predictable and predicted upsurge at the beginning of the changes we are introducing led us to turn back and leave the service and all who work in it with no sense of direction or leadership at all."

In his first key speech to health professionals since the reforms were implemented on April 1, the health secretary did his best, however, to modify nurses' fears about the impact of the changes. There was no question of there being an unregulated free-for-all market where the weakest went to the wall, he said. "For the first time in the UK we will have local health strategies, properly made, with

some power to see they are carried out."

Wary of a hostile reception in the aftermath of the week-end slanging match between Tories and Labour over opt-out hospitals, Mr Waldegrave peppered his speech with promises of fresh funds for nurse training and development, a pledge that the profession's pay review body would be retained, and that clinical grading appeals would be speeded up. However, Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, later said she was shocked and gravely disappointed that Mr Waldegrave had failed to respond to the college's call for a slowing down of the reforms.

"He came bearing gifts because he knew he was in trouble," said Ms Hancock. The gifts were not sufficient, though, to buy off nurses' concern about the reforms, she insisted.

As if conscious that he was fighting for his political life Mr Waldegrave, after a nervous start, warmed to the task of defending the NHS reforms, and surprised the congress by insisting on taking unprepared questions at the end of his speech, despite an earlier decision not to do so. "It is right that we should be finding out what things cost in the NHS. It is right that we should be building a system where the money goes, where it can provide most care," the health secretary said.

Baker plan to outlaw savage dogs

By SHEILA GUNN AND BILL FROST

KENNETH Baker, the home secretary, plans to outlaw the importation and ownership of US pit bull terriers and other fighting dogs, later this summer. The move comes after a savage attack at the weekend by a pit bull terrier on a Bradford girl, aged six, which left her with what doctors described as horrific head and chest injuries.

Mr Baker's plan emerged as a boy, aged 13 months, was being treated for face wounds after being attacked by the family pet, Max, a Staffordshire bull terrier yesterday. Adam Warrilow was admitted to the Selly Oak hospital in Birmingham suffering cuts and bruising. The boy's mother, Diane Jones, aged 17, said: "Adam was sitting eating crisps at one end of the table when Max ran over and gripped his face for no reason." Ms Jones, who also has a daughter, aged six weeks, said the dog would be destroyed.

The key elements of Mr Baker's plan are expected to be a ban on the import and ownership of fighting breeds such as US pit bulls, and tosas, the Japanese fighting dogs which can weigh as much as 17 stone. Also expected are new powers for the courts to order the muzzling of a wider category of dangerous dogs in public places and the introduction of a criminal offence of being in charge of a dangerous dog in a public place. Compulsory third-party insurance for certain breeds with a bad record of attacks is another option.

The parents of Rukhsana Khan, who was savaged on Saturday by a pit bull terrier, said yesterday that the breed should be banned from Britain. Nishad Ali Khan, the girl's father, said: "We were very close to losing her. The doctors have been really remarkable in saving her. But the next time it could end with someone's little son or daughter being killed. We urge the government to act now, before they have a death on their hands."

Alan Eastwood, the chairman of the Police Federation, said yesterday that the home secretary should introduce legislation without delay. "Do we have to wait until there is another tragedy?" he asked.

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Painful figures, page 14

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Leading article, page 15

APPEAL FOR BANGLADESH

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TT 21/91

Abortion ruling

The judge who ordered a girl aged 12 to undergo an abortion against her mother's wishes said yesterday that terminating the pregnancy was in the girl's best interests. Page 3

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JP 11/20/91

Judge tells why he let 12-year-old have abortion

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE judge who last week ordered a girl aged 12 to undergo an abortion against her mother's wishes said yesterday that terminating the pregnancy was in the schoolgirl's best interests.

Mr Justice Holles said he reached the "clear conclusion" that allowing the pregnancy to continue would cause greater injury to the girl's physical and mental health than an abortion.

He made clear that he had paid full regard to the wishes of the girl, who wanted the termination. Although these wishes were not decisive, the interests of the girl, from west London and referred to throughout the case as "L", were paramount, he said.

He was giving his reasons for granting an application brought by social workers last Monday. They were concerned about the girl's ability to look after the child when it was born. She was made a ward of court after her mother insisted she should have the baby. The abortion was carried out the day after the judge's ruling, at almost 20 weeks of pregnancy.

The judge said: "If the mother's view is to prevail it means that this girl will be

forced to continue her pregnancy against her own wishes. One can imagine the mental turmoil she will then suffer. She may have to leave school, not least to avoid adverse comments. She may reject the baby. She will have to face the traumatic considerations as to what will happen to the baby after its birth.

"It is possible that having felt the baby in her arms she will want to keep it, which the mother herself agrees would be impractical. There might follow a traumatic period for the ward when a decision, possibly involving the courts, will have to be made whether the baby should be adopted or cared for by members of the extended family," he added.

Although the girl, who is illegitimate, sees her mother every day, she has been brought up since she was 18 months old, by her maternal grandparents, after her mother realised she could no longer cope. The grandparents supported the abortion. The father, aged 16, was also in favour of the termination.

Two doctors gave evidence for the mother. One said it was wrong to kill the baby just because it was convenient to do so. The second said she found difficulty with the idea of taking a baby's life. The judge said both doctors were putting the interests of the fetus and not the ward as first and paramount.

Doctors called by Hillingdon council, west London, said that the mental and physical risks in a girl so young having an abortion were far outweighed by the risks of pregnancy.

The girl's GP examined her on April 30 and told the council that she was pregnant. The council applied to have her made a ward of court. The abortion was fixed for May 14 - the latest date on which it could be carried out without having to induce the baby. The hearing took place on May 13.

A consultant paediatrician called by the council said that the suicide rate among schoolgirl mothers was high.



Saved victim: Rukhsana Khan, aged six, who is recovering in Bradford royal infirmary from an horrific attack by a pit bull terrier on Saturday

Ban on breed creates legal minefield

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

ANY attempt to ban the pit bull terrier as a breed would be bound to fail, dog experts warned yesterday.

The reason is that the dogs do not constitute a breed at all. There is no unambiguous way of distinguishing a pit bull terrier and no breed standard, so that any law banning them would run into difficulties of definition.

Bill Edmunds, of the Kennel Club, said that a law passed in New York banning the dogs had to be repealed because courts could not prove they were pit bull terriers.

He said: "Owners could claim the dog was a cross with some other species, and therefore outside the law. All dogs belong to same species and share the same genetic blueprint. To distinguish between breeds by DNA analysis may one day be possible, but has not yet been undertaken."

The origins of the pit bull terrier lie in the southern states of the United States, where Staffordshire bull terriers, English bull terriers and English mastiffs were cross-bred to produce a fighting breed. The aggression of the type has been enhanced by a breeding programme in which only the best fighters are used to produce the next generation. Without this form of selection, the genetic rule of "reversion to the mean" - by which each successive generation tends to be closer to the average than its

parents in any characteristic - would have produced a more docile dog.

This breeding has produced in the pit bull terrier a dog like no other, says Tim Wess of the RSPCA. He calls the dog "a Darwinian nightmare" and says the only way to control it is to have compulsory registration and third party insurance for all dogs with higher fees for those with a violent record.

Mr Edmunds thinks registration is unnecessary, but says it is absurd that dog owners are not held liable in law for their misbehaviour. If that were changed, he says, all dogs would become much better controlled, and dogs such as pit bulls would disappear.

Insurers refuse cover for dogs bred to fight

By BILL FROST

LEADING pet-insurance companies said yesterday they would refuse cover to the owners of pit bull terriers and tosas, the heavy-weight Japanese fighting dogs introduced to Britain last month.

While welcoming the possibility of compulsory third-party insurance, currently under consideration by the home secretary, the firms were unwilling to give quotes on the two breeds with the worst reputation for ferocity.

Denise Bigwood of Dog Breeders Insurance Ltd said the company had stopped giving cover to the owners of pit bull terriers last year. "The Kennel Club contacted us and said not to offer any more insurance on US pit bull terriers. We have made the same decision about tosas. People ring up and ask for cover still, and we have to tell them it is not available. As far as we are aware, no-one else offers cover either."

Annie Dickinson, deputy managing director of Pet Plan, said the company would never give cover to pit bull owners. "We realised from the start that the dog could not be insured. It is a question of temperament, usage and the people that have them. The pit bull is bred for fighting, that is the animal's function."

Both Pet Plan and Dog Breeders Insurance Ltd said they would continue to give cover to the owners of other breeds with a reputation for

unpredictability and ferocity. There was no exclusion clause covering rottweilers, dobermans, Staffordshire bull terriers or German shepherds.

Ms Bigwood said: "For about £46 a year we can cover the owner against vet's bills, the loss of a dog, accidents or attacks. The limit on the comprehensive policy is £2 million."

"Obviously compulsory insurance would benefit us financially, but we think every responsible owner should be covered. Every time you take the animal for a walk there is a possibility he or she will take a violent dislike to a passing dog or person with potentially horrific consequences."

Pit bull terrier and tosa owners with household policies were almost certainly covered against the violent excesses of their animals, Clive Longhurst of the Association of British Insurers said yesterday. "Ninety-nine per cent of such policies include third-party liability on pets. That means if the animal attacks a passer-by or runs into the street and causes an accident you are protected. But of course by no means all dog-owning households carry insurance."

Inspector Alan Garish of the Metropolitan police, who compiles a register of dangerous-dog incidents in the force's area, said yesterday that all owners should have their pets insured. Two years ago he warned it would "not be long before a child is killed unless something is done immediately."

According to Scotland Yard figures, the pit bull terrier has the worst record of attacks: 125 incidents in the year to May 1991. This compares with 114 involving German shepherds - which outnumber pit bulls seven to one - 79 by rottweilers, and 109 by crossbreeds.

Mr Garish said: "Pit bulls are the only dogs in this country purely bred to kill other animals, and to them there is very little difference between an animal and a young child."

Baby attacked, page 1

Reformers say law favours the owners

By OUR LEGAL AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

VICTIMS of dog bites are badly served by the law, which favours owners and makes it difficult for them to obtain redress, reformers argue.

The Animals Act 1971 allows a dog one bite before the animal's reputation for violence is established. However, those in favour of reforming the law say this in practice has become a "first bite" escape clause, which prevents victims from receiving redress.

In one recent incident in which a former model suffered a bite to her lip, the victim was unable to seek redress in the courts because she could not prove the dog had a history of violence. However, if a dog is of a breed known to have a

DOG ATTACKS

Police incidents in year to May 1991

Pit bull terriers	125
Staffordshire bull terriers	31
English bull terriers	7
German shepherd dogs	114
Rottweilers	79
Crossbreeds	109

propensity to guarding its territory or to violent behaviour, one bite can result in a successful claim.

The other main laws on the control of dogs are the Town Police Clauses Act 1847, which makes it an offence to allow an unmuzzled, ferocious dog to be at large, or to set on, or urge a dog to attack, or worry or put in fear.

The offence carries a fine of up to £400 or up to 14 days' imprisonment but there are difficulties with its enforcement: it does not apply to all parts of the country and there are problems proving the dog is known to be ferocious.

The Dogs Act 1871 enables courts, where a dog is dangerous and not kept under proper control, to order the animal be kept under proper control or destroyed. It was strengthened by the Dangerous Dogs Act 1989 which made it a criminal offence not to obey a order of the court punishable by a fine from £400 to £2,000. (This maximum will go up under the Criminal Justice bill to £5,000.)

North Sea rig adrift in storms

A North Sea oil rig with 66 men on board broke free from its tug in gale force winds yesterday while being towed to the Clair oil field off Shetland.

The Petrolia was being taken from Invergordon on the Moray Firth to the oil field when the line snapped 13 miles west of the island of Foula.

Helicopters were "on standby" but evacuation of the men was called off after sea and wind conditions improved.

Two die in plane

Two people were killed yesterday after their light plane crashed on the Dukes of Westminster's estate at Abbeystead Fell near Lancaster. The pilot and passenger, who took off from Blackpool airport, are both believed to have come from North Yorkshire.

Fight dropped

Lynne and James Melling, of St Anne's, Lancashire, yesterday gave up attempts to take to the House of Lords their fight to adopt a boy aged two they have cared for almost since birth because they cannot afford legal costs.

Firm death fine

Pasta Foods Ltd, of Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, was fined £10,000 with £3,000 costs yesterday for health and safety offences after Ken Frostick, aged 57, one of its staff, was crushed to death at the bottom of a grain silo.

Rescue fails

Villagers and firemen using hoses lost a four-hour fight yesterday to save a 25ft pilot whale stuck on jagged rocks near Redcar, Cleveland. The whale died before high tide.

Pilot named

The pilot killed when his plane crashed on Sunday during a display at Woking, Berkshire, was named yesterday as Peter Newbery, aged 57, of Windsor, Berkshire.

Nunn divorce

Trevor Nunn, the theatre director, was divorced yesterday by his wife Sharon Lee Hill.

City swindler 'invested' his clients' millions on horses

By PAUL WILKINSON

NICHOLAS Young's search for the perfect betting system won him almost £9 million in five years. But that was not enough to cover losses approaching £11 million, mostly from money supplied by investors for offshore funds which they believed he was running.

Yesterday at the Central Criminal Court the executive with a City accountancy group was jailed for four years after admitting 11 specimen charges of making misleading, false and deceptive statements and deception and forgery involving amounts between £3.3 million and £6 million.

The court was told that even at the end he was still seeking his "holy grail" of the perfect gambling scheme. While in custody awaiting trial he had written to one investor apologising for losing his money and offering a copy of his latest system which needed "a copy of the Daily Mirror, a copy of The Times and the odd million in cash".

Young, aged 45, was a director of Clark, Kenneth Leventhal, an association of accounting companies with members in 35 countries. He promised his clients huge returns on company investments, but used their cash to pursue the search for a fool-

proof scheme begun while reading English at Cambridge 25 years earlier.

His position as executive director of a respected City firm, his connections with such charities as the Surrey Lamplugh Trust and the NSPCC and his impeccable social connections and personal charm led investors to trust him, John Jones, prosecuting, said.

Young offered interest of 21 to 100 per cent on investments and, as one loser put it, "made it all sound so wonderful I couldn't wait to take part."

When pressure mounted for a return on investments,

Young offered 100 per cent a year for what he claimed was an investment in a Japanese bank. Within days he had raised more than £500,000. By then, however, a disgruntled investor had complained to Clark, Kenneth Leventhal and an investigation had begun.

Judge Astill said Young had used his charm and ability to satisfy his "insatiable greed for both emotional and material advantage".

Young lived lavishly. Although his salary was only £34,000, he was spending more than £1 million a year. He had a £500,000 five-bedroom house at Parsons Green, west London, educated his three children privately and celebrated his wife's 40th birthday with a £400-a-head night-club party for 70 guests.

Mr Jones said that in the five years before his arrest, Young placed bets which totalled £10,922,000. Although he won £8,729,000, this left a loss of well over £2 million.

Young had shown "an ironic sense of humour", he said. When investors wanted to know where their money was he made an anagram of the word "horse" and added three letters, making offshore.



Young offered investors 100 per cent interest

Ancient rights become burning issue

By PETER DAVENPORT

FIFTY residents of rural hamlets in the Pennine foothills of West Yorkshire are embroiled in a dispute with their local council over rights, first granted in Saxon times under Edward the Confessor, to burn peat in their homes.

The 17,000 acres of the ancient Graveshop of Holme are included in a new smoke-control zone due to come into operation in the spring of 1993. Kirkcaldy council has rejected appeals to grant a special exemption to the "heart-holders" even though the environment department says it has the power to do so.

The Graveshop was one of 12 formed when the ancient Manor of Wakefield was divided and is believed to be the only one now in existence in the country. Under the ancient charter,

residents living within its boundaries are allowed to dig peat on land owned on their behalf by a "constable".

Arthur Quarmby, an architect who is also constable of the Graveshop of Holme - centred on seven ancient townships in the Holme Valley - was elected to the Graveshop of Holme ten years ago, following his father and continuing a family tradition.

He says the decision threatens a unique tradition and that residents suspect the council's motivation is not just to improve the air quality but to end a bureaucratic anachronism over which they have no control.

"We have to do everything we can to preserve this ancient tradition," he said. "We should be actively encouraged and not facing extinction."

The council, however, says that if a special case is made for the peat-burners, then other residents affected by the order, such as coal-miners, might justifiably feel aggrieved because they will no longer be able to burn their traditional fuel. Kirkcaldy has spent more than three decades improving air quality and the majority of the area is now smokeless.

The peat-burners will meet tomorrow to draw up a plan of action. They have the support of Graham Riddick, the Conservative MP for Colne Valley, who said yesterday that the extension of smoke-control regulations to rural areas was unnecessary as emissions were within legal limits. He intends to raise the issue with Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary.



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TIM 02

Clarke issues mass higher education blueprint

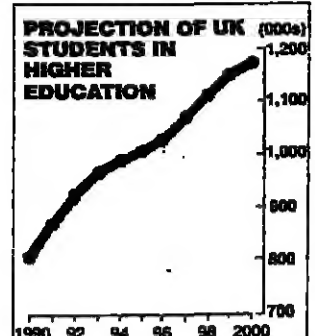
By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

RAPID transition towards a system of mass higher education catering for one school-leaver in three by the end of the decade was promised in the government's series of statements yesterday on post-16 education.

The distinction between polytechnics and universities will be abolished, with single higher-education funding councils established in England, Scotland and Wales.

Polytechnics and some colleges of higher education will have the power to award their own degrees. The Council for National Academic Awards, which has validated degrees outside the universities since 1965, is to be closed.

A new system of quality assurance, based on the



universities' new academic audit unit and Her Majesty's Inspectorate, will be established after consultations with the institutions. For the first time, polytechnics and universities will be subject to the same checks.

The changes are intended to allow universities, polytechnics and colleges to continue expanding beyond previous expectations without a loss of quality. "The teaching and scholarship in our universities, polytechnics and colleges are rightly held in high regard both at home and internationally," says the white paper. "That quality has been enhanced during the expansion in the five years 1985-1990 which saw numbers increase by over 20 per cent. The challenge to higher education is to continue to

expand efficiently, to cater for the projected increase in student numbers while maintaining quality."

Only two months ago the education department was predicting that one in four school leavers would enter higher education by the turn of the century. An increase to one in three will mean an extra 300,000 students over the next eight years. An anticipated falling-off of demand in the next three years has now been discounted.

The new funding council will be modelled on the existing bodies administering the polytechnics and universities and will also take responsibility for the Open University. The separate bodies for Scotland and Wales represent unprecedented devolution in higher-education affairs.

Arrangements for research funding are still to be finalised, although the universities' entitlement to automatic funds for research will remain. Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, said that the existing universities would retain the bulk of research money, but polytechnics would be able to bid for allocations as long as they concentrated on applied work.

The white paper, *A New Framework*, stressed the government's determination that polytechnics should retain their present character. Mr Clarke said: "It is our firm intention that the distinctive features of the polytechnics, with their particular emphasis on links with industry, vocational degree and sub-degree courses and applied research, should be maintained."

Colleges that are not granted degree-awarding powers will have to approach accredited institutions, as some already do in relationships with universities. There will be an opportunity for colleges to apply again for the right to award degrees in future years.

Institutions will be en-



Graduation day at Oxford: the bulk of research money will be retained by the existing universities, according to the education secretary

couraged to consider a variety of course lengths, but there will be no compulsion to move towards two-year degrees. The white paper envisages more two-year diplomas in vocational subjects.

The government is not specific about the additional money available to finance the further expansion of higher education, but the recent moves to funding largely through tuition fees is to continue. "The government believes that the real key to achieving cost-effective expansion lies in greater competition for funds and students," the white paper says.

"That can best be achieved by breaking down the increasingly artificial barriers between the universities and the polytechnics and colleges."

Institutions will be encouraged to continue looking for increased funding from private sources, particularly from industry and commerce, benefactors and alumni. Increasing national wealth in the five years from 1992 to 1993 is expected to match the projected increase in the number of students. The white paper guarantees higher education a fair share of public expenditure but foresees a need for efficiency.

Reforms have an air of inevitability

By PETER SCOTT

THE white paper on higher education introduced yesterday by John Major and four cabinet colleagues is less radical than it appears. Far from being a leap in the dark, it is the culmination of policies followed by earlier governments, Labour and Conservative, which this government has in turn pursued during its 12 years in office.

The government's decision to scrap the distinction between universities and polytechnics — allowing the latter to call themselves universities and award their own degrees — and to establish a single higher-education council to fund a unified system, may appear like a root-and-branch repudiation of the binary pol-

icy put in place by a Labour government a quarter of a century ago.

But its abandonment has been inevitable since the last white paper in 1987. The Education Reform Act a year later removed polytechnics from local authority control and established them as independent corporations not unlike the universities. Polytechnics have been universities in all but name for some time.

However, if yesterday's white paper simply registered the government's acceptance that Britain already has, in embryo, a unified system of higher education, interpreting this shift is more difficult. One account suggests that the brave new idea of a popular

alternative to the universities — more open to new kinds of students, more vocational in its ethos, less bound by academic tradition; the idea behind Anthony Crosland's original binary policy — will now be quietly abandoned.

With their new status and independence the polytechnics will adopt the high-and-mighty ways of the universities because that way lies prestige, and cash.

The second account suggests, on the contrary, that the binary policy has fulfilled its purpose, hence its abolition. The success of the polytechnics has ensured that the values and practices they represent, such as vocational relevance and wider access, now have an assured place in

higher education. No relapse into academic snobbery can turn back the clock now.

Three issues, however, remain to be resolved. First, how will the present binary structure be dismantled in detail? After all, it would be perfectly possible to create a unified system that perpetuated present patterns of discrimination between universities and the rest.

Second, how would the universities react? Their morale is at a low ebb, yet they continue to represent the core of excellence around which even a mass higher-education system must rally.

Third, what part will further education play? It is these colleges as much as, or more than, the universities and polytechnics which hold the key to the mass future. Freed from local government constraint, will they be able to become like the community colleges operating in America — powerful agents of professional improvement and cultural transformation?

Peter Scott is editor of *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.



Students at Lancaster: Clarke said polytechnics' distinctive features will remain

Keynote changes spanning half a century

Major education reforms and proposals for England and Wales since 1944:

1944: Education act remains basis of state education. It guarantees free and compulsory schooling for all children aged five to 15.

1951: Matriculation examination for secondary school leavers replaced by General Certificate of Education at O and A-level.

1956: Colleges of advanced technology established, later becoming universities.

1959: Crowther report into education for pupils aged 15 to 18 recommended raising school-leaving age and establishing further education colleges, with the aim of having half age-group staying in full-time education until 18. Not yet achieved.

1963: Robbins report, which led to setting up of new universities, established principle of higher education for everyone who was capable, with aim of increasing numbers in higher education from about 8 per cent to 17 per cent in 1980 (proportion in higher education now about 20 per cent). Robbins also recommended teacher training be removed from local authority control.

1964: Act allowed local education authorities to introduce middle schools for eight to 13-year-olds.

1968: First eight polytechnics established; there are now 32.

1972: School-leaving age raised to 16.

1975: Direct grant grammar schools phased out with introduction of full-scale comprehensive education.

1983: Business and Technician Education Council set up to improve vocational training.

1986: Education act reformed school governing bodies, removing large number of local authority appointed governors and giving more power to parents and community interests. School admission policies altered, increasing parental choice. Act also introduced assisted-places scheme, giving government support to less-well off families whose children are accepted by independent schools.

1986: GCSE, to be set by all 16-year-olds in 1988, introduced to replace Certificate of Secondary Education and O-levels. National Council for Vocational Training formed to oversee all vocational training.

1987: AS-levels (the "half A-level") introduced.

1988: Biggest reforms since 1944 came with 1988 Education Reform Act, which set up national curriculum and regular testing of pupils at seven, 11, 13 and 16, made religious study compulsory, introduced grant-maintained schools, Polytechnics and Colleges Funding Council and Universities Funding Council, and abolished Inner London Education Authority.

1988: Higginson report commissioned by the government recommended that traditional three A-levels required for entry to higher education be replaced by five "broader, leaner" A-levels; proposal rejected.

1990: Student loans introduced.

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مكتبة من الأصل

Schools shake-up aims to make more pupils stay on

By DAVID TYTLER, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE government is proposing radical reforms of education and training for 16 to 19-year-olds in England and Wales in an attempt to encourage more pupils to stay on after the age of 16.

The white paper also proposes a new vocational qualification that will allow students to enter higher education, extra vocational courses in schools, closer links with industry, and training credits for all 16 and 17 year olds who leave full-time education.

It says that schools should be allowed to accept part-time and adult students - either paying fees or using training credits - into their sixth forms. The traditional A-levels will remain but the government will attempt to persuade universities to accept a mixture of A-levels and AS-levels, the "half A-level", as qualifications for entry.

There are still young people leaving school without the motivation to continue learning, says the white paper. "We want to offer them better incentives and opportunities. And vocational qualifications and colleges of further education are still undervalued. We want to see full equality of status between them and their academic counterparts."

In addition to losing sixth form and further education colleges, local authorities also face the prospect of their career services being privatised or run directly by local Training and Enterprise Councils.

The white paper's main recommendations are:

Qualifications

Young people should be free to choose the education or training that suits them best. "They should not be limited by out-of-date distinctions. Academic and vocational qualifications deserve equal recognition. After 16 they should have a free choice."

To achieve this the government proposes a new system of ordinary and advanced diplomas. The white paper suggests that the ordinary diploma could be awarded to students gaining four or five GCSEs at the three highest national curriculum levels, seven to ten equivalent vocational qualifications, or any combination of these.

The advanced diploma might be awarded to those gaining two A-levels at grade C or above, an equivalent combination of A and AS-levels, equivalent vocational qualifications or a combination of all three. The diploma would "demand a level of achievement which offers a passport to most degree courses and jobs requiring a similar level of ability."

The white paper contains a clear threat to those colleges or schools which do not meet the new standards. "Choice between the academic and vocational route is confused by the institutional divide between further education colleges and sixth forms. We intend to remove those which are no longer justified."

"This does not threaten centres of proven excellence. The best sixth forms offer an education of high quality which provides a foundation for entry to higher education and for the acquisition of professional skill. The government will ensure that these opportunities continue to exist."

The National Council for Vocational Qualifications has been asked to ensure that its qualifications are generally available by the end of 1992 for 80 per cent of the working population. The remaining 20 per cent will be brought up to professional levels. Colleges and schools will be required to offer only these qualifications for students on vocational

courses. The government accepts that the present three A-levels may be too narrow but has refused to accept the proposal to introduce five "leaner" A-levels. Instead it will rely on an extension of AS-levels, the half A-level introduced in 1987.

"The government looks to higher education admission tutors and to employers to give higher significance to AS results," says the White Paper. "We will continue to encourage the take-up of AS."

"We will also seek to encourage breadth in other ways, including the development and take-up of other courses which enable young people to continue their study of, for example, modern languages and information technology. A-level and AS syllabuses need to evolve. But they must do so without undermining the consistency of high standards."

"The government believes that its prime objectives - to increase participation and to improve standards - will be secured effectively without the need for radical change to a highly regarded, tried and tested examination system."

The government also intends to allow schools to admit part-time and adult students into their sixth forms and to charge fees or accept training credits for them. This will give schools more revenue and enable them to use resources more efficiently."

Employers and education

The influence of employers on education will be extended through the Training and Enterprise Councils which will be able to take a strategic view of the needs in their areas and liaise with schools and colleges to ensure that they are provided.

"Employers need well-qualified young recruits with a strong educational foundation on which to build working skills throughout life. Schools and colleges need to be responsive to the needs of employers and young people; they get better information about jobs."

Training credits

Youth Training will be made more effective through the widespread introduction of training credits given directly to the school-leaver and usually worth about £1000. There have been ten pilot schemes since April dealing with about ten per cent of 16 and 17-year-olds entitled to training. The aim is to extend this to every 16 and 17-year-old by 1996 but the government intends to rely on voluntary co-operation and not a legal requirement as planned by the Labour party.

"The commitment of young people and their employers to training needs to be secured by voluntary means. Compulsion on employers or young people is unnecessary," says the White Paper. "The effects of compulsion would be damaging. Young people would be forced to follow routes they had not chosen. Employers would be burdened with bureaucratic requirements. Small firms would be particularly hampered. There would be far fewer jobs for young people. Our voluntary approach of offering incentives to young people to train through credits will raise skill levels without the damaging consequences of compulsion."

Careers advice

Local authorities can no longer be relied on to provide a high quality careers service geared to modern needs, says the White Paper, and the Government is planning legislation to allow the training and enterprise councils to take

over the careers service from the local education authority, allow it to be privatised or managed jointly. The government will also take reserve powers to compel a local authority to put the careers service out to tender if this seems desirable.

"The careers service now needs to raise the overall quality of its services. High standards should be available everywhere; to draw even closer to employers; to be part of the new efforts led by the Tecs to build up employer commitment to training; and to encourage more young people to take up education and training programmes and aim for higher qualifications," says the White Paper.

The government also intends to provide additional resources to equip secondary schools and colleges with up-to-date libraries and computerised information. Each secondary school and college will be able to have a computer on which it will be able to run careers information services. The new grants will be conditional on schools providing adequate facilities for a careers library.

Better motivation

The government intends to introduce a single school leaving date at the end of the summer term so that pupils who reach 16 between September and January will no longer be able to leave at Easter.

Compacts between local business and schools will be extended and all young people will be offered a record of achievement. More young people will be encouraged to reach higher level vocational qualifications and sufficient places will be available in higher education.

The white paper also says that the Confederation of British Industry's proposal for training targets will encourage employers to offer more young people the opportunity to qualify. Special training status will be considered more widely for young trainees offering a clear progression from initial trainee pay to higher rewards.

Education and Training for the 21st Century (two volumes, HMSO, £11).



Set papers for education policy: Kenneth Clarke looks on as John Major holds up the white paper at the launch of the education and training proposals yesterday

Clarke sets seal on sixth form revolution

ALL sixth form and further education colleges will be taken out of local authority control in April 1993, Kenneth Clarke, the education secretary, confirmed yesterday. The 363 colleges will be supervised by separate councils for England and Wales.

In a white paper on education and training published yesterday, the government says that good quality education should be available to adults to help to improve their qualifications.

As part of the drive to involve business in education, all college governing bodies will have to include a representative of the local training and enterprise council.

The white paper says that until now sixth form colleges have concentrated on academic courses, but in the future may want to increase the amount of vocational training on offer.

In 1991-92 more than £2 billion will be spent on education in the colleges. They will in the future receive a block grant from the College Funding Council, but extra money will be available, depending on how many students are enrolled.

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Competitors keep more on at school

THE government's reforms are designed to improve the number of teenagers staying on in full-time education or training, which still lags behind Britain's competitors despite an improvement in the number of 16-year-old students choosing to stay on at school or college (David Tytler, writes).

Last year, for the first time, more than half of the 16-year-olds in England and Wales continued with their education. In 1986, 49 per cent stayed on, rising to 53 per cent in 1990. In training and education the figure is 58 per cent, or 70 per cent if part-time training is in-

cluded. For all 16 to 19-year-olds, however, the figures are not so good, with 37 per cent in full-time education and training, plus 33 per cent part-time.

In Germany, the figures are: full-time 47 per cent, part-time 43 per cent; in the US, 79 per cent and 1 per cent, respectively; Japan, 77 per cent and 3 per cent; France, 68 per cent and 8 per cent.

The improvement in staying-on rates at 16 still leaves Britain at the bottom of the league compared to such countries as Australia (71 per cent), Belgium (89 per cent) and Canada (95 per cent).



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مكثا من الأصل



Famine victims get extra £30m

The government is making a further £30 million in aid available for humanitarian relief in Africa and Bangladesh, Lynda Chalker, the overseas aid minister, announced during Commons question time. She said that she had previously released £94.5 million from the aid budget for this purpose and at the end of last month the prime minister had announced an additional £30 million for the aid budget.

About £5 million will be to help the Bangladeshis to rebuild their lives after the cyclone and £20 million would be used for immediate famine relief in Africa. Next week Mrs Chalker will be pressing EC aid ministers to increase their efforts.

Pedestrian deaths down

The number of pedestrians killed on the roads has almost halved in the past 20 years, according to figures in a written reply from Christopher Chope, the roads and traffic minister. In 1970, a total of 2,925 people were killed. Ten years later the figure was down to 1,941 and last year down to 1,636.

Fraud cases

Fifty-one cases have been brought to trial by the Serious Fraud Office since it was established in 1987 and 82 of 120 defendants have been convicted, Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, said in a written reply.

Help for poor



Latest figures, for February, show that there were 322,000 households receiving family credit, Michael Jack (above), social security under secretary, said at question time. That compares with 79,000 families receiving family income supplement in February 1979, he said. The fourfold increase does not reflect the full effects of the recent advertising campaign to get more people to claim.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Education and science; prime minister. Disability living allowance and disability working allowance bill, Lords amendments. Lords (2.30): Criminal justice bill, report stage continued.

Tax dispute triggers Tory threat of rebellion

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TORY backbenchers last night were threatening a serious revolt over the government's plan to legalise regulations raising about £250 million in tax from the building societies that were quashed last year by the House of Lords.

Sir William Clark, the ultra-loyalist chairman of the Conservative backbench finance committee, has taken up the cudgels on behalf of the building societies in their increasingly acrimonious battle with the government and told Norman Lamont, Chancellor of the Exchequer, last night that the money should be paid back. He is backing the societies' claim that they have been subjected to double taxation.

Other senior Tory backbenchers were voicing deep disquiet about the wisdom of tabling retrospective legislation in this year's Finance bill in order to overrule a decision of the Law Lords.

The societies are claiming that about £400 million - £250 million in the original tax payments five years ago and up to £150 million in interest - should be returned to them because of the Lords' judgment last October in favour of the Woolwich.

Sir William told Mr Lamont at a meeting last night that the contentious clause 50 of the bill should be dropped. He suggested a solution under which the disputed sums could be paid back to the societies over a period of years to ease the budgetary difficulties that MPs acknowledge such a large loss of revenue might pose.

He said before his meeting: "What the government is proposing is unfair. The Woolwich rightly have got their money back, so should the others. There are 30 million building society depositors in this country. Some societies have warned that they may have to pay a little less interest because they have been taxed twice. Their savers might understandably be irate."

The Commons standing committee considering the bill will discuss an amendment to delete the clause early next month and the government risks embarrassment.

The dispute had its origins in 1985 when the government decided to bring building societies into line with the banks. Previously they paid tax annually on January 1 each year. From April 1986 they were required to pay the tax quarterly according to payments made in each quarter of the tax year.

Building societies with annual accounting periods not coinciding with the April to March tax year have since maintained that they paid tax twice on the period between the end of their accounting year and their first quarterly payment.

The Leeds Permanent said yesterday that clause 50 was dishonest and disreputable and should be withdrawn. The government was trying to legislate retrospectively to prevent the Leeds and other societies from obtaining repayment of sums that should never have been taken from them. "This is simply confiscation."

The Leeds says that the

Treasury has taken £57 million, excluding interest since 1986, "that belongs to the reserves of the society, which in turn belong to its members who are no less entitled to fair treatment than the society itself". It added: "It is not helpful either to the society or to the United Kingdom's standing as an international financial centre that the government should carry out arbitrary raids on the reserves of financial institutions, trampling over rulings of the courts in the process."

The Treasury says that the Lords' ruling was on a technical defect on the legislation and that the Finance bill is trying to correct it. In a letter to the Building Societies Association, John Maples, Treasury economic secretary, said that he did not accept that clause 50 imposed double taxation. "There is not one pound of income being taxed twice", he said.



Scent of power: Norma Major at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday wearing a new fragrant pink hybrid tea rose, called "Norma Major"

Benn bill would spell end for the royal family

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A BILL to provide Britain with a written constitution in which an elected president would replace the Crown as head of state, the House of Lords would be abolished and the voting age reduced to 16 was presented to the Commons yesterday. It is unlikely to make any further progress.

The proposals by Tony Benn to replace the nation's unwritten constitution would involve sweeping changes in the way the establishment operates and would introduce national parliaments for England, Scotland and Wales. British involvement in Northern Ireland would end.

Mr Benn said: "Few people have any idea of how government works. The ritual and the splendour conceals an empty shell. The House of Commons has no power at all. We are a very, very undemocratic society. I think it is important that what is wrong is wrong at the top of Britain and not at the bottom."

Under his bill the constitutional role of the Crown and its associated prerogatives would end, with all Crown lands and property passing to the state, although the royal

family would be provided with a pension and housing. Members of the royal family would be liable to tax, have the restrictions on their religion lifted and be free to marry whom they wished.

Two Houses of Parliament would be elected, consisting of equal numbers of men and women, for a four-year term. The Commons would have supreme legislative authority, but the elected second chamber would represent England, Scotland and Wales in proportion to their populations. An elected president would have the powers now exercised under Crown prerogative and would act solely on the advice of the prime minister or a Commons resolution.

Mr Benn's Commonwealth of Britain bill would allow the Commons to elect one of its members as prime minister and give Parliament the power to approve the stationing of foreign forces in Britain. It would disestablish the Church of England and allow for the election of magistrates. The new constitution would be put to the electorate in a referendum that would also decide on the electoral system.

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BO 347

By Our Foreign Staff

Mrs Thatcher is to meet Chief Buthelezi today as part of her original itinerary.

Migrant influx

Hong Kong — About 1,000 Vietnamese boat people arrived in Hong Kong at the weekend, bringing this year's total to 6,700, more than the 6,600 for all of last year. (AP)



From IOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

In his talks with Mr Kaifu, Mr Quayle demanded an additional \$9 billion (£5.2 billion) towards the cost of the Gulf conflict to compensate for a shift in the exchange rate that devalued Japan's original contribution.

Mr Quayle's discussions come against a background of heightened trade tensions between Japan and America. The latest blow to the world's most important trading partnership fell last weekend when

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN NEW YORK

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It is equally determined that the Khmer Rouge should never return to power and has rejected a United Nations peace plan because it fails to provide against such a possibility.

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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

Despite the intense competition in 1990, and through a firm internal policy of 'good housekeeping,' Mr Jon Foulds, Chairman of Halifax Building Society, was able to announce exceptional results for the year in his first annual statement.

- Pre-tax profits up by 11% to £593 million.
- Cost/income ratio improved from 51.4% to 48.5%.
- Assets grow to £54,000 million.
- Gross lending of £9,600 million to 211,000 borrowers.
- Market share of lending sustained at 17%.
- Savings and investment balances up by £5,600 million.

"It is," said Mr Foulds "my firm belief that the quality of Halifax assets, our capital strength, profitability and efficient management place us among the leading European financial institutions."

Everything about the Halifax is substantial, both its achievements and its ambitions.

Yet it is the constant principle of the organisation that all the success to date will only continue if customer needs are met with excellent products and an exceptionally good service.

Good housekeeping, consolidating and preserving asset quality, enhancing service and controlling costs have not deflected the Society from its steady programme of introducing new products and services.

During 1990 the broad range of mortgage schemes was widened to encompass special offers for first time buyers, larger borrowers and those looking for a fixed rate mortgage, whilst prudent lending policies ensured that

borrowers were not allowed to over-commit themselves. New saving schemes

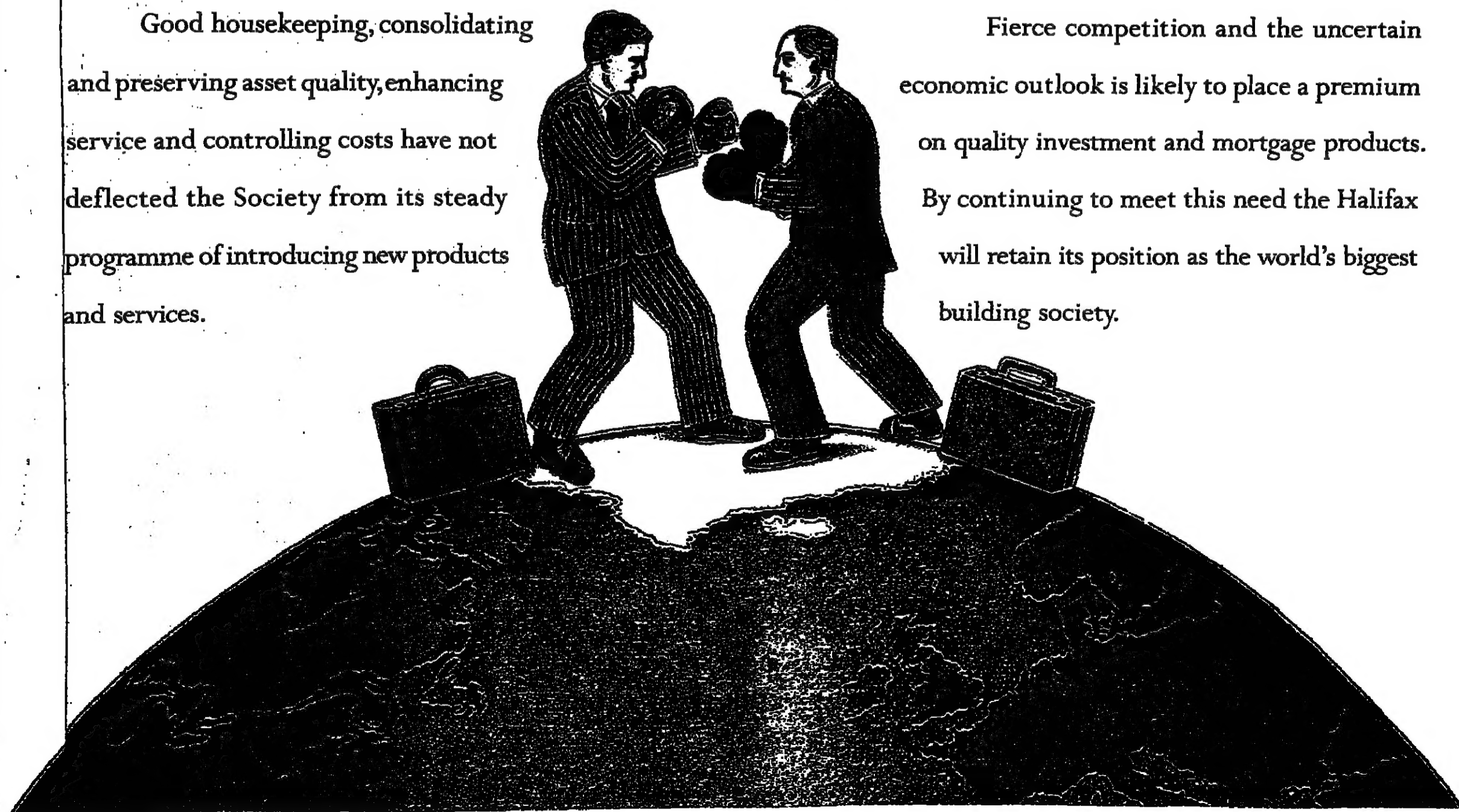
were added to the traditional portfolio of Instant Xtra and 90 Day Xtra. These included a one year bond - Capital Xtra and a high return investment-Time Deposits.

Following the 1990 Budget encouragement for savers, the Halifax introduced a TESSA scheme which has proved spectacularly successful with currently over 360,000 customers and almost £1,000 million invested.

The appeal of Maxim, the Society's current account, continued to grow, and now 350,000 customers have the additional benefit of the Switch facility.

Halifax Standard, a joint venture unit trust company, was formed to offer a range of personal equity plans and unit trusts, the first of which, Global Advantage, made an encouraging start despite the background of a rather depressed stock-market.

Fierce competition and the uncertain economic outlook is likely to place a premium on quality investment and mortgage products. By continuing to meet this need the Halifax will retain its position as the world's biggest building society.



HALIFAX

Soviet refugee legions poised to overrun eastern Europe

EASTERN Europe is bracing itself for a Soviet invasion: not a column of tanks and troops this time, but a vast legion of refugees from the crumbling superpower.

The new passport law passed in Moscow yesterday will open the frontiers in 1993 for Soviet citizens, but western countries still have strict immigrant quotas and visa requirements.

The result is that hundreds of thousands, perhaps millions, of Soviet migrants will treat Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia as a kind of European waiting room, a place to make money illegally while preparing themselves for the final hop across the frontier to Germany and points west.

For the three main reforming states of post-communist Europe, such a sudden and massive immigration prob-

lem is more than their fragile economies can bear. According to a report submitted to an east-west migration conference in Vienna earlier this year, some 1.4 million people left the post-communist countries last year.

Figures submitted to the European Commission in Brussels suggest that 800,000 a year could be entering western Europe from the east. There are even more drastic projections emerging from the Soviet Union: between 1.5 million and eight million Soviet citizens are said to be ready to move westwards.

Plainly it is eastern Europe that will have to take much of the overflow. The three "frontline" western states — Germany, Austria and Finland — are erecting barriers fast. Although Germany now permits Poles, Czechoslovak

Soviet migrants, freed by a new law to travel from 1993, may use eastern Europe as a way station to the west, Roger Boyes writes from Warsaw

citizens and Hungarians to enter without visas, it is swiftly approaching the limits of its capacity.

The commitment to accept ethnic Germans — currently welcomed at the rate of about 120,000 a year from all over eastern Europe — could lead to huge financial problems once the Soviet frontiers are open. The Soviet Union recently proposed to Austria that it grant 150,000 work permits a year to Soviet citizens.

"Out of the question," Josef Hosoun, the Austrian welfare minister, said in an interview. "If anything, we

want to do the opposite and help keep them over there." Austria is planning to send skilled craftsmen to the Soviet Union to start up retraining schemes for the unemployed. Meanwhile 1,500 additional Austrian soldiers have been placed on the Austro-Hungarian frontier where the iron curtain once stood.

The ethnic factor makes eastern Europe a more natural destination than western Europe for Soviet emigrants. More than six million Romanians live in the Soviet republic of Moldavia and in the Ukraine. There are ethnic

Czechs and Slovaks living in Ruthenia — the trans-Carpathian Ukraine — which was annexed by the Soviet Union after 1945.

There are big Polish minorities in Lithuania, Belorussia and the Ukraine and some 170,000 ethnic Hungarians in the Ukraine. An ethnic Pole living in Lithuania, worried by political uncertainty and perhaps facing redundancy, watches the glamorous western-style advertisements on Polish television beamed across the border and makes his decision. With an easily obtainable Soviet passport, that decision has suddenly been weighted in favour of emigration.

The Soviet move westwards has already begun. Last year the number of Soviet "tourists" to Poland jumped from 2.9 million to

4.3 million. This year the number is expected to exceed six million.

Most of these people are tourists in the most flimsy of senses: they are doing business, selling goods bought in Soviet shops for subsidised prices to Polish customers, changing their zloty profits into dollars and then taking the hard currency home.

Polish economists say some \$1.2 billion (£700 million) is likely to pass from Poland to the Soviet Union in this way. Many of these traders spend almost all of the year in Poland and Hungary. It is only a short gap that divides these economic commuters from fully fledged migrant status.

Soviet Jews are also starting to live in eastern Europe. Unable to enter America (which has set a 50,000 annual quota), unwilling to



travel to Israel (which has 11 per cent unemployment), they live in limbo in Poland and Hungary, trading on the markets and saving for the next stage of their journey.

For two centuries central and eastern Europeans have

wanted to emigrate: now people want to be in their countries. But there is no surplus housing, very small budget allocations and no jobs for immigrants.

Leading article, page 15

Yeltsin faces last hurdle before the presidential prize

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, the Russian leader, today faces his last pre-election hurdle on the way to becoming Russia's first democratically elected president when the terms of the new presidency go before the full Russian parliament for approval.

While all political groups say they agree on the need for an elected Russian president, many establishment Communists harbour misgivings, both about the nature of the post in general and about the candidacy of Mr Yeltsin in particular. Although a law on the presidency has already been passed by the Russian Federation supreme soviet,

constitutional changes require the consent of the full parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies. Speaking in Moscow yesterday representatives of the Communists of Russia faction, the biggest organised political group at the last congress two months ago, yesterday gave a glimpse of their tactics.

Rather than denounce the institution of the presidency, they will try to surround it with so many restrictions that the post has very little power. Citing, with obvious pleasure, the "checks and balances" of the American constitution, they pledged to concentrate their fire on Mr Yeltsin's plans

for a Russian constitutional court and the selection of the new supreme soviet, the standing parliament.

They like the idea of a constitutional court, but only if it is not packed by supporters of Mr Yeltsin. At present, the chairman of the court, planned as a constitutional watchdog, would be nominated by the chairman of parliament.

If, as proposed, the court were to be constituted at this week's congress, Mr Yeltsin would have a considerable say in its membership and who chaired it. The Communists want the whole question of a constitutional court to be postponed until after the presidential election. This would prevent Mr Yeltsin, assuming he wins the presidency, from determining the composition of the court, as there would then be a new chairman of parliament.

There was more than a suggestion that the reason why both Nikolai Ryzhkov, the former Soviet prime minister, and Vadim Bakatin, a member of Mr Gorbachev's security council, were standing against Mr Yeltsin was because the Kremlin could not judge which would have the better chance if, as seems likely, the voting goes to a second round.

Moscow's radical mayor, Gavril Popov, yesterday failed to win a vote of confidence in his leadership and said he might resist his supporters' demands to run in free elections scheduled next month. In an unruly and chaotic session of the Moscow city council, a majority of deputies refused to vote "yes" when asked if Mr Popov should be a candidate in elections planned for June 12, the first democratic mayoral poll in Soviet history.



Popov: lost key vote of confidence



Raging bull: a bull tries to escape by charging over a protective barrier at Barcelona's bull ring during a fight on Sunday. The animal leaped over the barrier five times during the fight to the amusement of the spectators

US aid suspension dismays Yugoslavs

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

YUGOSLAVS yesterday expressed dismay at reports that the United States has gone ahead with a threat to suspend financial aid to the country, ostensibly over continuing human rights abuses in Serbia's province of Kosovo.

Stipe Mesic, who was prevented from automatically taking Croatia's turn as federal president last week by Serbia, said in Zagreb that the cut in aid would have a negative effect on the whole of Yugoslavia but that Croatia would "definitely take steps to make separate arrangements".

Dimir Rupel, the foreign minister of Slovenia, which is set to secede in just over a month, said: "I understand this as a protest against the chauvinistic policies of the Serbs."

Budimir Loncar, the federal foreign minister, said that United States economic aid of \$4 million (£2.3 million) a year was not important in itself but far more so was the report that the Americans would suspend their backing for Yugoslavia's attempts to raise credit in international financial organisations and in the international market. Yugoslavia is already in debt by \$18 billion and according to Mr Loncar now needs

\$4½ billion in urgent financial assistance.

While the American action is technically over Serbian repression of the Albanian population of its southern province of Kosovo, the move is being seen as a more general rebuke. The measure has reportedly come into effect, without any announcement, after the expiry of an official deadline demanding an improvement in the human rights situation in Kosovo. To Slovenian and Croatian satisfaction, Serbia is increasingly being seen as the culprit in the continuing failure to create a new form of Yugoslavia following the collapse of the old federal republic.

Darko Bekic, President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia's senior adviser, said: "Why should the democratic republics suffer for the crimes of others?"

"We are nations not administrative units. We hope that soon the Americans will give the democratic republics aid, then we will be getting definite recognition." In the past Mr Bekic had described Yugoslavia as a corpse being kept alive by infusions of foreign economic aid and he had argued that this lifeline should be cut off.

Walesa begs Jews for forgiveness

FROM REUTERS IN JERUSALEM

PRESIDENT Walesa yesterday asked Jews to forgive the centuries of Polish anti-Semitism which Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, once accused the Poles of sucking in with their mother's milk. "Here in Israel, the land of your culture and the land of your revival, I ask for your forgiveness," Mr Walesa told a special session of the Knesset (parliament).

Mr Shamir, whose family perished in Poland during the Holocaust, did not directly reply to Mr Walesa's request but said he hoped the first visit by a Polish president to Israel would open a new chapter in relations between the two peoples.

But the prime minister told reporters after meeting Mr Walesa that he accepted the Polish leader's plea for forgiveness. "I think there was nothing more natural than this (request). I accept it very favourably. After all, today we are establishing normal ties between the two peoples and two countries. It's good that people are aware of what happened in the past," he said. Mr Walesa, who apologised last year for pandering to popular anti-Jewish prejudice in his election campaign, said in the Knesset that his visit

capped a process of reconciliation begun in 1989 when his Solidarity movement toppled the communist government which had cut ties with the Jewish state in 1967. "Today, as president of Poland, I can speak to and address representatives of Israel, and for me this is a great day," he said.

He was flanked on the podium by President Herzog and the Speaker of the Knesset, Dov Shilansky, who survived a Nazi death camp and shared German visitors.

Mr Shamir told the Knesset: "The Polish president represents in his history and character the new Poland, liberated and rejuvenated, a Poland which aspires to join the era of integration into democratic, free nations. We want to hope and believe that the first official visit is a sign of the opening of a new page in relations between our people."

Jews were Poland's biggest minority, totalling 3.5 million, before Nazi Germany's forces swept through the country and built Auschwitz, their largest death camp, there. The Treblinka and Sobibor death camps were also in Poland, and for many Jews the traditions and beliefs of many Poles are still steeped in anti-Semitism.

Sofia set to help in Pope enquiry

FROM SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE first non-Communist president in Bulgaria for more than four decades, Zhelyu Zhelev, has agreed to co-operate with authorities willing to reopen investigations into the attempted murder of Pope John Paul II ten years ago by a Turkish gunman.

Mehmet Aliaga, serving a life sentence in Italian jail, has accused the Bulgarian secret service at the Kremlin of plotting a attack to squelch public support for Solidarity, the trade union which was losing what was then the Soviet bloc country's pro-democracy fight. But officials from the former Communist government have denied any link with Aliaga.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union's bid over Eastern Europe, Mr Zhelev has said he will make available secret police files compiled by the previous regime of Todor Zhivkov. Among 600 preparing to reopen the enquiry into the shooting are the Italian government and a Washington historian, Alan Weinstein, who works at a privately-funded think-tank, The Centre for Democracy.

Italy's veteran prosecutor in the case, Antonio Maria, has said that a team will go to Sofia, the Bulgarian capital, in search of new witnesses as soon as his government receives official permission to see the police archives. The secret files, according to unofficial estimates, could total thousands of pages.

Professor Weinstein is planning a trip in coming weeks to Sofia, Italy, Turkey and the Soviet Union, where he will make a long-awaited request to meet the head of the KGB secret police, Vadimir Kryuchkov, after his request to launch an investigation by an international panel, including two Soviet historians.

Agca almost killed the Pope in Rome's St Peter's Square on May 13, 1981. Last week he again drew attention to his often incoherent testimony during a trial in 1986 before an Italian court by writing a letter that asserted "it was the Bulgarians who wanted the death of John Paul II".

Cholera action

Rome — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation said today it would target street food hawkers to help fight a cholera epidemic in Latin America. The organisation said that food sold on the street could cause cholera if it was washed in contaminated water. The epidemic has killed more than 1,400 people in Peru since January. (Reuters)

Cyprus victory

Nicosia — The conservative Democratic Rally finished first with 35.5 per cent of the vote and 26 seats and the communist KEL party second with 30.6 per cent and 18 seats, consolidating their influence in the Greek sector of Cyprus after elections for the 56 parliamentary seats. (AFP)

Death plunge

Chamonix — Three French mountain climbers scaling Mount Blanc fell 3,280 ft to their deaths then their rope slipped, and fourth climber died in a separate accident. (AP)

Blushing pink

Prague — Five anti-communist deputies may be jailed for up to 10 years for painting a Soviet tank monument pink, the ITK agency reported. The tank symbolised the city's liberation by the Red Army in May 1945. (AP)

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BRUSSELS NOTEBOOK by George Brock

EC sends out confusing smoke signals

European Community plans have a way of turning out wrong, and serving to demonstrate the workings of the law of unintended consequences. Take the draft law just announced by Vasso Papandreu, the health commissioner, which would ban all tobacco advertising throughout the community.

By an odd coincidence, the impetus for a total advertising ban comes from the four community countries which run state tobacco monopolies: France, Spain, Italy and Portugal. The state tobacco monopolies have been losing their shares to European and American tobacco giants. Could it be that motive for an advertising ban is not health, but protectionism? The community spends large sums every year boosting its 400,000 tobacco farmers, and the subsidy bills show little

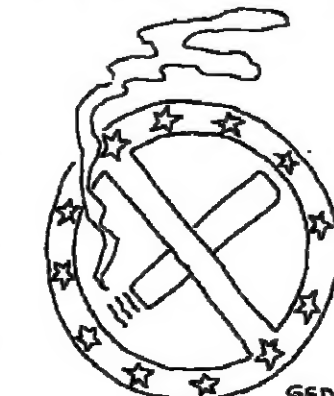
sign of diminishing. Much of this tobacco is so rough that no European addict would dream of smoking it. The crop is grown to attract maximum subsidy and then dumped, cut price, in the Third World.

The British, German and Dutch governments have held out so far against a total advertising ban. But politicians are easily panicked by lung cancer: the directive was expected to pass in the commission by one vote but sailed through 10-4. If national ministers go the same way, Europe will end up still buying about 560 billion cigarettes a year.

Farmers are paid by the common agricultural policy not only to grow crops, but also sometimes to grow nothing at all. This latter policy needs monitoring against fraud, as it contains a built-in temptation to collect the money for

leaving the land fallow, while growing something and collecting a second subsidy.

The commission is looking at



using satellite photography to spot naughty farmers. Farm ministers are due to spend several nights of this

week discussing the ballooning farm budget. The American government, with masses of satellite technology at its disposal, uses spies in the sky to check up on its own "set-aside" schemes. However, as a British official pointed out, European farms are tiny by comparison.

Jacques Delors goes to Tokyo this week just as the Japanese government digests the unwelcome news of Edith Cresson's appointment as the French prime minister. Madame Cresson once described the Japanese as "ants" out to conquer world markets. While Japanese diplomats tie themselves in knots trying to make it clear that while Japanese politics may be something of a male preserve, they have nothing against Madame Cresson as a woman, they shudder at everything she has to say about protecting Europe's vital industries against invasion by Japanese.

Handwritten signature: "John Smith 15/50"

Violence and low turnout mar election in India

From COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

INDIA voted in the first phase of its tenth general election yesterday in an atmosphere charged with violence. At least 40 people were killed, and the northern city of Meerut was placed under curfew after clashes between Hindus and Muslims. Sporadic violence took place in five Indian states amid an unprecedented security operation involving 1.5 million security personnel.

Election officials said voting was cancelled in 35 polling stations in five of Bihar state's 54 parliamentary constituencies. Yesterday's polls took place in 204 constituencies representing 197 million voters. When counting begins on May 26, 500-odd constituencies will have gone to the polls. Elections in the strife-torn states of Punjab and Assam will take place next month.

The election has heightened communal tensions in Uttar Pradesh state. Two key campaign issues have been the controversy over the building of a temple to a Hindu god at the site where a mosque now stands in Ayodhya, and whether the imam of the Jama Masjid mosque in Delhi was justified in asking his fellow-Muslims to support the Janata Dal party, led by V. P. Singh, a former prime minister.

Yesterday the army was called into the industrial town of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh after clashes broke out. On Sunday the army was sent into Bulandshahr in western Uttar Pradesh where several polling booths were taken over by rival groups.

T. N. Seshan, the chief election commissioner, described the first phase of the polls as "fairly good" with complaints of irregularities restricted to about 15 constituencies, of which half are in Bihar.

Searing temperatures of 42 degrees Celsius (about 108 degrees Fahrenheit) kept home a large number of voters, and the turnout was lower than India's average of about 64 per cent of the electorate. No previous general election has been held in summer. In the three populous states of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan the turnout was below 50 per cent.

In Delhi on Sunday, Sikh extremists fired at the residence of Sejan Kumar, the Congress candidate for one of the capital's seven parliamentary seats. Mr Kumar escaped unhurt but three of his bodyguards were hit.

But there was considerable enthusiasm among those who queued to vote. Muslim women dressed in chadors were distinct in lines outside polling booths in Delhi long before the stations opened.

There was speculation among observers whether the Congress or the Janata Dal would garner the greater share of the Muslim vote. The minority Muslim community is disturbed over the upsurge of Hindu fundamentalism being preached by the Bharatiya Janata Party. In affluent south Delhi, however, the polling was a low 35 per cent, indicating the growing disillusionment of the Indian middle class with all political parties.

In east Delhi, the ballot paper was longer than a page of a broadsheet newspaper since 105 candidates were contesting a seat. Voters took a while to find the names of their candidates on the list.

In the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh several lorries carrying about 100,000 cases of liquor — meant as an election offering to poorer voters — were seized.



Helping hand: Sonia, wife of Rajiv Gandhi, the former prime minister, receiving a little help from an election official yesterday as she casts her ballot moments after her husband did in the first phase of India's general election. Violence in five states marked the start of polling

Private armies on march for ballot day

From A CORRESPONDENT IN DELHI

IF THE Indian election is to be free and fair, as officials promise, it has to overcome vote-rigging, gangster practices and the murder of presiding officers.

In the northeastern state of Bihar it is commonplace for local toughs to commandeer voting booths. Government officials manning the booths are too scared to protest and simply look on. One presiding officer who did intervene was shot dead yesterday.

Many of the booth-capturing squads, who are controlled by local gangster leaders, are armed with locally made pistols and bamboo. One such

leader in Bihar is even standing for election. However, in the town of Dhanbad the Bharatiya Janata Party has put up as its candidate Rita Verma, the widow of a police officer who was shot dead by gangsters while trying to prevent a bank hold-up.

Competing sides in the powerful intermediate Jats caste called in their private armies in the state of Haryana yesterday in which Devi Lal, the maverick deputy prime minister and champion of the Jats, is contesting the parliamentary seat of Rohtak. In the village of Grawati, in Rohtak, a presiding officer

was beaten up by a mob and, in the constituency of Hissar, Harijans (Untouchables) officially boycotted the polls because some were not allowed to enter the booths. The son of a former chief minister, Bhajan Lal, of the Congress (I) party, fled when police interrupted an attempt at booth-capturing in Hissar.

In some parts of Haryana, which adjoins Delhi and Punjab, it is unusual for people to vote individually. Instead village leaders take a unilateral decision on the political party to be supported and a few select individuals vote on behalf of everyone else.

Gopi Chand, a Harijan from Rohtak district, confessed that he had never exercised his vote. "Who is going to get one's head broken? It is the Jats farmers who employ us as casual labourers in the field, and in any case they own all the bamboos and the guns," he said.

When the Jats are united, stuffing the ballot boxes goes smoothly. This time, however, election-rigging has been more difficult. The Jats have been badly divided since March last year when Om Prakash Chautala, son of Devi Lal, insisted on standing for an assembly by-election in an

anti-Jat constituency. Mayhem broke out on polling day, several people died and dozens were injured. The election was eventually cancelled.

In a curious move in the northern and most populous state of Uttar Pradesh, the BJP has put up Tehsildar Singh as its candidate in the assembly seat of Jaswantnagar. He was sentenced to 525 years in prison before being pardoned a few years ago and confessed, while filing his nomination papers, that he had killed 150 people during his years as a criminal. But he added that most of his victims were policemen.

Madame has high hopes of a seat

Delhi — Nimmi Bai, brothel madame and head of the local prostitutes' union, finished promoting herself as an independent candidate in the Indian general election yesterday, then went back to promoting her girls.

She is confident of winning a parliamentary seat to represent the old quarter of the Indian capital. "I have been concentrating on the elections since the tenth of this month. Business has gone bust," said Ms Bai, who also describes herself as a social worker.

She had persuaded the government to help prostitutes get their children adopted and headed a campaign to have the children admitted to schools without their fathers having to be identified.

Ms Bai, who spent 20 years as a prostitute, said she saw nothing wrong in her candidature. "Why can't a prostitute or a madame go to parliament. At least we work hard to earn our money." (Reuters)

Nepal winners

Kathmandu — The liberal Nepali Congress party has won two more seats in the country's elections, taking its total to 108 of the 205 seats on offer, an election commission official said. The United Marxist-Leninist Faction of the Nepali Communist Party secured 68 seats while other pro-left parties won 13. By noon today all the results should be known. (AFP)

'Guerrillas' shot

Colombo — Soldiers shot dead 15 suspected guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam trying to escape a security cordon in eastern Sri Lanka, and militants elsewhere shot dead four civilians, the military said. The 15 tried to escape during an army offensive against rebels in Batticaloa district which is under a curfew. (AFP)

Allies enter Dahuk to check key services

From ANDREW FINKEL IN DAHUK

AMERICAN troops carrying automatic weapons yesterday visited Dahuk, a town outside the security zone imposed by allied forces in northern Iraq. The non-combat troops were accompanied by civilian personnel on a one-day mission to assess how to restore public services for about 200,000 refugees who the allies are trying to coax home.

The presence of the uniformed allied troops in the town alongside Iraqi police and national guards, as well as members of the Baath party, is part of the jostling for control of the city on which outcome the refugees will decide if it is safe to return home. Although the allies have stated repeatedly that it is not their intention to incorporate Dahuk into the security zone,

Major John Baxter of the Royal Marines made it clear in Dahuk yesterday that the allies were committed to keeping a sufficient presence there to meet their objective.

Major Baxter is a member of the military co-operation centre, the allied body that meets with the Iraqis and which negotiated yesterday's entry into Dahuk. Although all Iraqi forces were to have withdrawn from the town, there were unarmed Iraqi national guards stationed at key points. The allied team that entered the town yesterday also discovered a church filled with Iraqi secret policemen, who had arrived from Baghdad only yesterday. Major Baxter said that the allies' objective was to reactivate the refugees. "If that means we will have to come back to Dahuk, then we will."

Many now expect a gradual increase in the numbers of allied troops on security detail in the town alongside the logistics operation to repopulate Dahuk. Iraq, paradoxically, will accept this greater involvement of allied troops since it is its best hope of hastening the departure of Western troops.

However, the allies will want to ensure that the Iraqi security forces stay well clear of the three-mile zone around the town to which they are meant to withdraw. They will also seek to persuade the Iraqis to withdraw artillery to a distance of nine miles, effectively putting it out of range of Dahuk.

Patrolling the streets of Dahuk yesterday were also members of a United Nations security force. Stefan de Mistura, the senior UN representative in the area, said they were there to provide food, medicine and a "presence". One of his French-speaking officers, Frank Malandre, a veteran of similar operations in the past, expressed the hope that northern Iraq "does not become another Lebanon".

The allies hope that the weight of their presence and the refugees' overwhelming desire to return home will convince the Kurds that their safety will be assured. Time is running out on the attempt to coax them from their mountain camps as the hot summer approaches and water supplies begin to evaporate. June 1 is cited as a critical date.

Small crowds of refugees gathered in the Dahuk marketplace yesterday to assess for themselves the situation in what was virtually a ghost town only a week ago. One person in the crowd claimed it would not be safe to return until all the Iraqi troops had withdrawn, although he had returned three days ago with his ailing mother. Another man arriving in the town, a former engineering student in Mosul, doubted whether the presence of a few UN troops with sidearms could provide protection. But he broke off in mid-sentence when he caught sight of a battered lorry full of Kurdish peshmarga fighters. "It must be safe," he muttered.

Sam Nunn, the Democratic chairman of the Senate armed services committee, has described a feeling said the feeling on Capitol Hill was that the role for women should be expanded despite "some concern" about "how far and how fast".



Nunn: concern on limits for servicewomen

Rethink on war role of women

Washington — American women are almost certain to be given permission by Congress this week to fly fighters and bombers in future wars, after widespread praise for the range of roles they performed in the Gulf War (Susan Elliott writes).

Until now, Congress has upheld a law banning women from combat assignments on the ground that public opinion would not tolerate women dying on the battlefield. Three American women died on duty in the Gulf, and two others were the first American women prisoners-of-war since the second world war.

Sam Nunn, the Democratic chairman of the Senate armed services committee, has described a feeling said the feeling on Capitol Hill was that the role for women should be expanded despite "some concern" about "how far and how fast".

Israelis wary as Lebanon rebuilds with Syrian help

ON ONE of the many building sites in the Lebanese city of Tyre, the sound of workmen hammering has replaced the clatter of automatic fire as multi-storey apartment blocks, villas and restaurants spring up along the Mediterranean shore.

For the first time in nearly a decade, the only ruins which greet visitors are those left by the Romans, not the fresh scars of another chapter in Lebanon's war.

Tyre, a name synonymous with some of the worst excesses of the Lebanese conflict, is at peace for the time being and the Lebanese characteristically have wasted no time in taking advantage of the lull, no matter how short-lived it proves to be.

In the space of the few weeks since February 7, when the Lebanese army deployed its men on the streets of this city and in the surrounding countryside, the Shia Muslim militias have melted away and some faith in the authorities has returned.

"The Lebanese people are tired of war, they want a chance for peace," said Colonel Zacharia Fouma yesterday at the Lebanese military headquarters in an old French fortress. "Of course, we could use more men and equipment, but we have the support of the people and that is the main thing," he added.

But, as the commander is no doubt aware, although the city's problems may have temporarily disappeared from view, the potential to plunge Tyre and the whole of southern Lebanon into another

round of fighting is still very much present.

On Saturday, Israeli jets bombed the headquarters of the Shia Muslim Amal militia while a meeting was under way with Palestinian guerrilla leaders. Muhammad Said Ashkar, a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Mahmoud Haydar, an Amal militia chief, were killed.

Israel is in particular displeased at what it sees as the virtual annexation of Lebanon by Syria in the wake of the friendship agreement sealed by Beirut and Damascus at the weekend.

There is certainly room for concern, Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, said last Friday. "It is a dangerous process. Of course it harms a country, harms the independence of Lebanon, but there are also in this process risks for Israel."

While the world's attention was focused on the Gulf crisis and Syria joined the coalition against President Saddam Hussein, behind the scenes it began the process of swallowing up Lebanon, converting Lebanon in fact to a protectorate of Syria, and these days they are trying to complete the process.

Of particular concern to the Israelis has been the disarming

of their traditional Christian Lebanese allies, the Lebanese Forces militia, while the Palestinians in southern Lebanon and the fundamentalist Hezbollah militiamen have been left in possession of their arms.

The head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's leadership in Lebanon, Zeid Wehbe, confirmed yesterday at the al-Bass refugee camp in Tyre that his men would not relinquish their arms because they needed to protect themselves against the nearby positions manned by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army militia.

"The Syrians, the Israelis and the Iranians are in the country with weapons and soldiers," he said. "All we have is civilians, but we need to keep our guns to protect ourselves. The air raid was a message to the Lebanese and the Palestinians that the Israelis will not leave us in peace."

With those attitudes still strong among the tens of thousands of Palestinians living in southern Lebanon, it will be difficult to avoid further confrontation with Israel even if the majority of Lebanese would like the chance to live in peace.

"This is a very fragile period," commented one veteran observer of the situation in southern Lebanon. "If the region is allowed to stay peaceful, then there is a chance that the rule of the militias will be over. However, if Israel wants to disrupt Syria's progress in Lebanon this is the place where it will start trouble."

UN sets up Gulf war losses fund

New York — The United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution yesterday establishing a war damage fund into which Iraq is to pay future oil revenues, and chose Geneva as the site of a governing board to control the fund. Fourteen nations voted in favour, with Cuba abstaining.

The American-initiated resolution also threatens to retain sanctions indefinitely if Iraq does not abide by the decisions of the council or its subsidiaries on compensation payments, estimated at billions of pounds for Kuwait alone. (Reuters)

Missile failure

New York — Army investigators said a computer failure to launch a Patriot missile allowed an Iraqi Scud missile to hit an American military barracks in Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war. The New York Times reported. Twenty-eight people died in the attack. (Reuters)

Cairo reshuffle

Cairo — President Mubarak announced a limited cabinet reshuffle, including a new foreign and defence minister (Christopher Walker writes).

Jail vigil highlights fear holding together Saddam's system

From ADAM KELLNER IN BASRA

TO TEST Iraq's professed new policy of freedom of information, try to talk to the hundreds of unhappy women clustered outside Basra city jail. When we met them during a press tour of southern Iraq last week, many spontaneously burst into tears.

They were dressed in the head-to-ankle black robes worn by most women in Shia-dominated southern Iraq, and their presence had attracted hawkers selling food and drink in front of a large mural of President Saddam Hussein wearing a white panama hat and sun shirt.

The women, sheltering from the sun behind a wall of the city's main hospital, said they were hoping their menfolk would be released

from the city jail. None had any official confirmation that the men were inside, but the prison seemed a logical point for a daily gathering in what amounted to a silent protest. "Her father is in there," said one weeping woman, holding up her baby daughter and gesturing towards the high-walled compound topped with barbed wire. "The soldiers came and took him away."

Another woman, with tears trickling down her tattooed face, asked: "My son, my only son, where is he?" The secret police moved in when others surged forward, also anxious to tell Western reporters their stories and for possible words of hope. The women sprang away as if hit by an electric shock. Guards shooed them off and one officer slapped an elderly woman across the face. A kerbside interrogation of

the press began, mainly focusing on a man who had been translating the women's stories from Arabic to English. "Tell them that their husbands are in the hospital, and are in too much of a bad condition to be seen," ordered the commanding officer, dressed in a freshly ironed cream-coloured safari suit, polished black slip-on shoes, and white socks.

Bargaining by our information ministry milder defused his threat to arrest us for being in an "unauthorised zone" and eventually we were ordered to go. As a parting shot the officer, puffing on a cigarette in a gold holder, gave a sinister look to one woman who had spoken to us and said: "When they leave, I will teach you how to talk to foreigners."

The fate of the women's missing

husbands, brothers or sons is anybody's guess, but the Iraqi government is obviously anxious that the international press does not bring it to public attention. The crude assertion of authority against the women may not rate highly alongside the human suffering caused by the Gulf War, but the incident served as a microcosm of how Baghdad treats its subjects and why Western reporters are an anomaly in Iraq.

After five weeks travelling through the country, speaking to a vast number of people, the overriding conclusion is that fear is the rotten glue holding together the system. Democracy is touted as the answer to Iraq's travails in the state-run media and during cosy chats with senior officials, but the terminal distrust between the rulers and

the ruled makes it doubtful that there can be any real change. "Democracy? What is this thing?" chuckled one dubious resident. "Where can we buy it?"

Press freedom is meant to be a main pillar of Iraq's version of perestroika. In the capital, Baghdad, the Western media are free to talk to anyone and file copy without censorship, but on trips to outlying regions reporters are obliged to work in the presence of a minder.

One, called Kareem, had displayed a terror, with a group of Western journalists, of doing anything that might have future consequences. His was the same fear found outside the city prison in Basra and demonstrated that minders also go missing in Iraq, where mistakes can cost them far more than just a job.

Kuwaiti trials shock America

By SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON AND DAVID WATTS IN LONDON

THE American media reacted with shock yesterday to the sentencing of Iraqi collaborators in Kuwait.

For Americans who expected the war might result in a more democratic and humane Kuwait, the 15-year sentence on a man for wearing a President Saddam Hussein T-shirt found an echo in newspaper headlines.

In Britain, the Foreign Office last night expressed concern at the conduct of the trials. Embassy representatives have been attending the trials, and Michael Weston, the ambassador, is to press for the maintenance of proper standards of evidence and defence. Gerald Kaufman, foreign affairs spokesman for the Labour party, said he was "very deeply concerned" at events in Kuwait, and Sir David Steele, of the Liberal Democrats, said he was keeping an eye on them. Lord Mayhew said it was unacceptable to have trials, but "the sentences I have seen so far seem to me to be extreme".

"At Kuwaiti trials, T-shirts gets man 15 years" ran a headline on the front page of The New York Times. "Kuwait convicts 6 of aiding Iraqis," said The Washington Post. USA Today reported the trial as its biggest story, providing a weathervane to middle America's growing disenchantment with the social system of the country for which President Bush sent their relatives to war.

Amnesty International is concerned at the lack of access for legal counsel and is worried about the "selection" of 200 detainees for the trials, while the fate of a further 700 has not yet been determined.

American correspondents travelling with James Baker, the Secretary of State, to the Middle East on his inconclusive postwar diplomatic missions, have noted with chagrin that the Emir of Kuwait has composed a cabinet from members of his royal family and that he has refused to meet journalists.

Mr Bush's efforts to achieve the "new world order," coined as an aim in his Gulf war victory address to Congress, has won praise so far only for his initiatives to control arms in the Middle East.

Paul Smith transformed the city suit by making it more relaxed. The British designer talks to Liz Smith about his philosophy

CHRISTOPHER MOORE

Simply a cut above the rest

What a pity that London's Design Museum can fit only 300 people into its first-floor gallery for the talk to be given there on Friday evening. Anyone interested in fashion and, more particularly, every aspiring designer or retailer should hear Paul Smith, guru to the British menswear business, explain how he has built an international empire on his "serious suits and silly socks" design philosophy.

Mr Smith began his campaign for the rehabilitation of the city suit more than two decades ago. In that time he has changed attitudes towards wearing a suit for an entire generation, not just by loosening its cut but by subverting its stuffiness with a Hawaiian print tie, a pair of jokey cuff links and, yes, silly socks in pink with polka dots.

His clothes are understated in their detailing. There are no unnecessary flaps or fancy seamings. The interest is all in the cut and the cloth. The suit offers the comforts of broad shoulders, softer padding and puffed sleeves in the trousers, all engineered in a lightweight 250gm cloth. The average price of a Paul Smith suit is £350-£400, compared with £99-£150 at Marks & Spencer or £395-£950 for a ready-to-wear Savile Row suit (from Gieves & Hawkes).

The cut might not pass muster in traditional City boardrooms, but Paul Smith customers usually earn their crust in the more creative professions. Painters David Hockney, Jim Dine and Peter Blake, as well as fashion designers Calvin Klein, Jean-Paul Gaultier and Bruce Oldfield, are customers. Paul McCartney, Jack Nicholson, Kevin Costner and Tom Cruise regularly buy clothes in his London and New York shops.

When he turned down an invitation

to work on the launch of Next menswear in 1984, George Davies, the founder of Next, did his own version of the Paul Smith look. But retailers need to move fast to keep up with him. When he saw his style filtered down to the high street, he was off in a different direction. "It pushed me on," he says. "The Paul Smith style has changed dramatically in the past six years. My clothes hang next to Romeo Gigli, Gaultier and Comme des Garçons. I had to move my design forward. I started to play with trends and colour."

A tall, rangy figure wearing serious socks (grey), with his serious charcoal grey suit, he had just returned from a visit to New York to record a programme for *Good Morning America* on the theme "Clothes that make you smile". He had abandoned his customary dark sweater to wear a lilac and white striped shirt and lilac patterned tie with his suit. "I have not worn a tie for 12 years," he says. "But I was in Hong Kong to open a shop a week ago and put on a tie. I rather like it now."

In his talks he demonstrates the use of colour with slides of a Union Jack, a zebra and a pillar box all in the wrong colours. "Design is about observation," he says. "Take a duffel coat. It is usually made in camel or navy. Of course, you must always make it in navy and camel, but you also show the customer a duffel in yellow or green. It makes it interesting and new."

Another slide plays one colour against another. Navy with cream looks classic; with burgundy, regimental; with yellow, marine. Mr Smith's video of the Sixties, a strong contemporary trend in fashion, shows how the slim suits, short jackets and tighter buttoning of that decade are coming through in the cut of contemporary menswear.

He runs through his A-Z of designing the 1,700 pieces of a Paul Smith collection. "A is colour, always the starting point. Z is chasing the money when you have delivered the goods. So many young designers fail to grasp this. They take orders then they either fail to deliver or never get paid. I am around still only because I am an OK businessman and an OK designer."

He opened his first shop, in Nottingham, in 1970, when he was a



Mixer: Tom Dixon in brown wool suit and salmon linen jacket worn as shirt

shop assistant with no fashion training. The shop was a 12ft square room, and he opened only on Fridays and Saturdays. "There can be no compromise," he says. "I was trying to sell things then that the customer did not want. Men were wearing wide trousers. I was selling narrow trousers. I produced hand-made silk shirts with a loose cut and interesting buttons." He imported 501 jeans, a rarity then. It was pioneering stuff and people came from London and Yorkshire to buy.

Then, as now, his partner and driving force is Pauline Denyer, a former fashion designer trained at the Royal College of Art in London. He met her when she was teaching at Nottingham Art College and he has lived with her for 22 years. Ms Denyer has never played a formal role in the business, but her name constantly crops up in his conversation. "It is Pauline who sets the standard," he says. "She gave me the confidence to start. It would not have worked without her. It still does not work without her."

Today his turnover is £40 million a year. His clothes sell in 22 countries. He has five shops in London, including one in Harrods, as well as a shop in

Nottingham. He sells to 70 shops in Italy and has 59 shops in Japan. The fittings from a chemist's shop in Sheffield are now stocked with Paul Smith shirts in Tokyo. The company is now stocked with offers from Japan and Italy to license the Paul Smith name for fragrances or womenswear. He is a consultant to Marks & Spencer, where sales in menswear have increased to £1 billion since it adopted his design standards and a more sophisticated colour range.

"My handwriting is simplicity and that is one of the hardest things to justify. In the Seventies I used to go with Pauline to the Paris couture shows to look at the work at Chanel, Saint Laurent or Patou. That helped me realise the importance of cut, proportion and quality." He remembers how, early in the Seventies, he showed his range of shirts to Barneys, the fashionable Manhattan store. The buyers had trouble understanding why the shirts were special. "I had to explain they were made of Sea Island cotton, with 22 stitches to the inch, mother of pearl buttons, a soft collar, deep armholes and a loose fit," he says. Barneys, like all Paul Smith's customers, soon came to realise what is so special about simplicity.



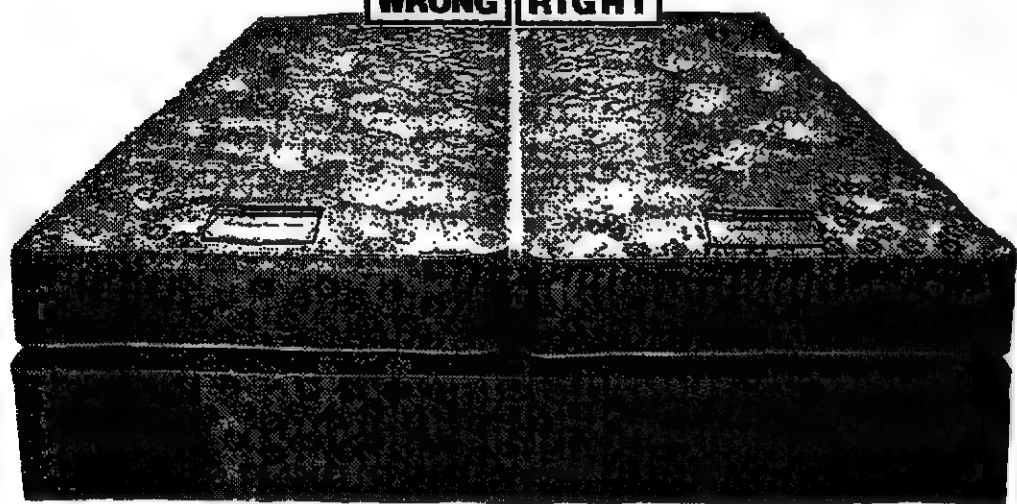
Tradition with a twist: the architect Piers Gough in brown and orange Prince of Wales checks

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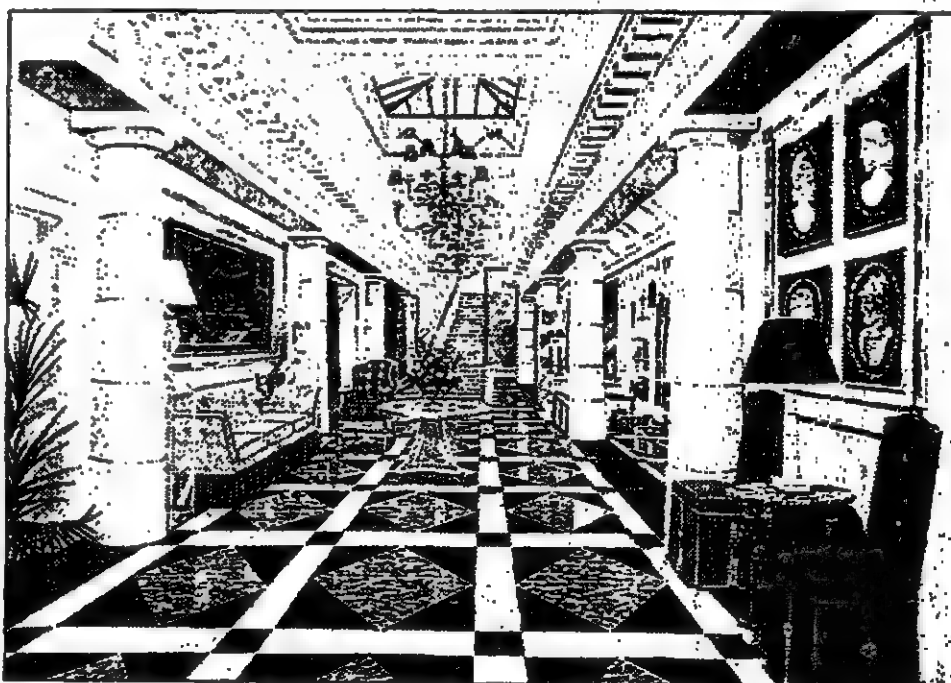
A showcase of house and garden design opens in London this week

Doing up a house or garden is expensive in time and temper, never mind money, but help is on the way. On Thursday the new Design & Decoration building will open in London. The aim is to keep under one roof all the inspiration and information needed by homeowners, interior designers, decorators and architects, in a series of permanent showcases and temporary exhibitions. A computerised information service is being developed which will eventually link up with the exterior design service offered at the Chelsea Gardener garden centre.

The project has been developed by Robin Guild, an interior designer, in conjunction with Fleur Rosedale, the organiser of the British Interior Design Exhibition. "The D&D building is like a three-dimensional interior design magazine," Mr Guild says. "The exhibition rooms are the glossy editorial pages, the showcases are the display advertisements while the sourcing and information centre is the classified section." The fourth annual British Interior Design exhibition is being held at the building to mark its opening.

"We want to demystify the process of interior design — to guide people rather than throw thousands of ideas at them," Mr Guild says. At the D&D building, it is possible to see samples, browse through fabric and wallpaper books, receive practical advice from the staff, complete enquiry cards requesting further information or catalogues, and arrange to meet suppliers or interior designers. The building has a cafe and bookshop, and a conference room with catering and projection facilities is available for hire.

Permanent exhibitors are required to change their displays four times a year. They are a mix of well-established firms, such as Osborne & Little and Affa Carpets, and less well-known companies, such as David Savage Fur-



Display case: the D&D building's Great Hall, by David Hicks and Stephen Ryan



Room for reflection: O'Shea Gallery's exhibition entry

niture and Manor Carvings. "Our goal is to offer excellence and variety," Ms Rosedale says. "The companies are either known by us personally or come with high recommendations for quality workmanship and sound service from people we trust. But the D&D concept is totally design-orientated, rather than product-led, which is why it will never be like the Ideal Home exhibition."

The computer database, for use by the public, is starting as a list of suppliers of products and services, filed by subject although not vetted for quality. Display panels and a section showing interior de-

signers' portfolios provide visual back-up. Eventually the D&D computer will contain cross-references to information held on the Chelsea Gardener's new computerised directory, to help customers locate a supplier who can copy work-out garden furniture, for example, or advice on making the most of a tiny patio.

The Chelsea Gardener's computer is for use only by staff to back up the personalised service it offers to clients. The computerised database contains details of suppliers who offer specialist services, as well as individual craftspeople. It lists trel-

makers, landscape contractors, wrought-iron manufacturers, garden designers, bridge builders, fountain makers, irrigation systems suppliers, conservatory manufacturers and makers of garden ceramics.

The companies represented are known personally to Major Charles Fenwick, the director of the Chelsea Gardener.

"People tend to have a much clearer idea of what they want indoors than outside. We want to guide people through a project rather than just introducing them to suppliers," Major Fenwick says.

The Chelsea Gardener directory will be officially launched in October, although it is up and running now. Through it a recent request for the removal of a 12ft magnolia from London to Cornwall was swiftly arranged.

NICOLE SWINGLEY

● The Design & Decoration building, 107A Piccadilly Road, London SW1 (071-730 2353) is open Mon-Fri, 9.30am-6pm; Sat, 11am-5.30pm.

● The British Interior Design exhibition runs from May 23-June 16. Open Mon-Fri, 10.30am-6pm (7pm Wed); Sat, 11am-5pm. Admission £7, including catalogue.

● The Chelsea Gardener, 125 Sydney Street, London SW3 (071-352 5656) is open daily, 11am-6pm.

هكذا من الأصل

Twilight of the managers

WILL they open a job centre to cope with the vacancies at the head of Britain's opera companies? Richard Mantle, managing director of Scottish Opera, is the latest to announce his departure: the abruptness of his going (the end of next week) may indicate the extent to which his relationship with the Scottish Opera board has deteriorated. With Peter Jones leaving English National Opera for Munich, and Brian McMaster departing from Welsh National Opera to run the Edinburgh Festival, a big shake-up at the top of British opera is inevitable, especially since most likely candidates themselves occupy high-profile posts with other companies. Informed speculation suggests that Paul Findlay (currently with the Royal Opera), Nicholas Snowman (South Bank), John Drummond (Radio 3), Nicholas Payne (Opera North), David Pountney (ENO) and Elaine Padmore (Wexford Festival) are considering throwing their hats into various rings.

Musical chairs

PIERRE Bergé, overlord of the Paris opera houses, has sacked Jean-Albert Cartier, general administrator of the old Opéra Garnier, which is now the home of the ballet company and visiting dance troupes. No reason has been given but it is believed that Patrick Dupond, in his first season as ballet director, thought Cartier wanted too much say in artistic decisions. If true, that would not be surprising since Cartier was formerly Dupond's boss at the Ballet de Nancy. Georges-François Hirsch, general administrator at the Opéra Bastille, now takes on responsibility for both theatres; insiders say that further changes are on the way.



Sacker: Pierre Bergé

Over the sea to Ulster

BELFAST's Lyric Players Theatre has announced the appointment of a new artistic director to succeed Roland Jaquarrell in July. He is Charles Nowosielski, who has spent the past five years in charge of the Brunton Theatre at Musselburgh, outside Edinburgh. Nowosielski, 37, also founded and directed the touring company, Theatre Alba. He comes to the Lyric after a period marked by some of the finest productions in the theatre's history.

Early lift-off

THE London International Festival of Theatre, better known as Lift, is starting on June 20, eight days earlier than planned, because of a late entry to its programme. Footsore, the travelling theatre company that left its Cornwall home to make its base in France ten years ago, will now open the festival with its anarchic

adaptation of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The company, which draws its inspiration from tribal dances, Japanese Kabuki theatre, *commedia dell'arte*, Aboriginal music and Irish fiddles, last appeared in London 12 years ago with its idiosyncratic show, *King Arthur*. The festival, which features 25 theatre companies from 12 countries, runs until July 21.

Paw drawing is rich catch

SCOTLAND has just acquired its first drawing by Leonardo da Vinci: a multiple study of a wolf's paws executed in silver which is thought to have been made for a planned volume on comparative anatomy. Purchased for £670,000 with a contribution of £100,000 from the National Art Collections Fund, it has been sold by an unnamed English collector.

Last chance...

JACK B. Yeats, brother of the poet W.B. Yeats, began as a cartoonist and draughtsman of Irish life, and subsequently took to painting. His seemingly slapdash and unexpectedly dim style is a matter of taste, but the show currently

at the Whitechapel Gallery, London (071-377 5015) offers a good opportunity to come to grips with the artist whom some claim is Ireland's greatest painter. "One of the best painters of horses ever," was the verdict of the painter, Frank Auerbach. This large retrospective closes on Sunday.

Cannes Festival: winners, losers, surprises and disappointments, appraised by Geoff Brown

Models of the film-maker's art

FOR the Cannes paparazzi, the 1991 festival belonged to Madonna. For the British, this was the year that the two British films entered in the main body of the programme both ran off with prizes. Ken Loach's London building-site comedy *Riff Raff* stole the hearts of many members of FIPRESCI, the international critics' forum, and won their second prize. More surprisingly, Isaac Julien's *Young Soul Rebels* — dashing, styled, but terribly acted — won the prize for the best film presented in Critics' Week; this may say as much about the other contenders as it does about the merits of Julien's film.

For others, this was the year of long films about painters. On the penultimate day, truculent French director Maurice Pialat gave us a sober but towering three-hour *Van Gogh*; while Jacques Rivette supplied the festival's best surprise with his four-hour *La Belle Noiseuse*, about an imaginary painter. Like most Rivette works, *La Belle Noiseuse* requires keen concentration; unlike much of his recent output, the concentration is given gladly. The action unfolds at the home of a burned-out painter, Edouard Frenhofer, whose putative magnum opus *La Belle Noiseuse*, named after a 17th-century courtesan, was abandoned ten years ago; his wife Liz had served as the model. A visit by another painter and his lover Mariamne tempts Frenhofer into returning to his task, using Mariamne.

These modelling sessions form the film's astonishing core. At first Mariamne (Emmanuelle Béart) is a frightened, nervous, French girl (Michel Piccoli) forces her into the most contorted postures as he sketches in ink. Gradually the roles shift, and Mariamne asserts her will. Outside the studio, relationships fracture: both Liz and Mariamne's lover soon wish the painting had never been re-suscitated.

Rivette, through rigorous control, makes every motion, every flick of pen, brush and eyelash, count. Tension rises steadily, and we watch transfixed. Photographed with an airy beauty, and persuasively acted (particularly by Béart), *La Belle Noiseuse* joins a select list of films once seen, never forgotten.

Pialat's *Van Gogh* film is a fascinating contrast: no agonising sessions before the easel, no rampaging shots of the ear being sliced. Helped enormously by an intense performance by Jacques Dutronc, Pialat deploys a naturalistic style to demystify his subject.

The narrative treats Van Gogh's last three months at Auvers, but instead of a Great Artist writhing, Pialat provides a powerful portrait of a man gnawed by inner torment. The occasional scene runs too long, but Pialat never puts a foot wrong in his tender, probing direction.

Krzysztof Kieslowski's entry, *The Double Life of Veronique*, prompted applause, and head-scratching. No other director could have made it the bilious colour, the tinted visuals, the focus on fate and people's inner lives all indicate the director of *The Four Seasons*.

Yet, at first viewing, this Polish-French production seems uncharacteristically vague. The first, overwhelming 25 minutes concern a



La Belle Noiseuse: model Mariamne (Emmanuelle Béart) is forced into contorted postures by the artist Frenhofer (Michel Piccoli)

young Polish girl, a promising singer who dies from a heart condition. The remaining hour follows a Parisian lookalike (played by the same gifted newcomer, Irène Jacob), who feels that she has lived before. "After the funeral," Kieslowski has remarked, "the rest of the film takes place between your ears." A screening with a clearer head is obviously called for.

I fear no amount of clear thinking might elucidate Peter Greenaway's *Prospero's Books*, scheduled as Britain's competition entry until technical delays made it impossible. Still, the first 17 minutes were screened. This variation on *The Tempest* looks set to be the director's most visually complex film, close in style to his *TV Dante* project. So much happens within the frame that one scarcely knows what to watch, though a near-naked John Gielgud throws a lifeline with scattered lines from the Bard. The film is due to open later this year; prepare for perplexity and wonder.

Co-productions ran riot. *Prospero's Books* is Anglo-French, with a bit of Dutch and Japanese. Theo Angelopoulos's *The Suspended Step of the Stork* is French, Greek, Swiss and Italian. Yet whatever the funding source, Angelopoulos inhabits his own country, a meandering world of magic and metaphor. This was the film that caused a Greek bishop to excommunicate the director and his entire cast and crew on the grounds of erotic

behaviour in the shooting script. Yet the Cannes print contained nothing to ruffle any feathers: maybe French decorum intervened. Angelopoulos mixes elements of the investigative thriller and personal reverie. His journalist hero pursues a story to a Greek border town near Turkey, home to refugees. Among the faces in the drab, grey setting (magnificently photographed) he believes he spots a politician (Marcello Mastroianni) who disappeared some years before.

The mystery is never solved, nor do we wish it to be: Angelopoulos spins a strong enough spell with his pregnant depiction of a community of a community without roots, suspended in mid-air like the stork's leg. One sequence — a wedding conducted with the bride on one side of a river and the groom across the border on the other — puts the film high among recent cinema marvels.

Denmark's Lars von Trier collaborated with France, Germany and Sweden for *Europa*, a grandiose thriller wading pretentiously in post-war German guilt, which won praise for its technical wizardry. China teamed with Britain, Germany and Japan for Chen Kaige's *Life on a String*, a visually lustrous excursion into folk music and myth

that lost its way with a plotless script and dubbing that made its ancient, blind musician sing with the voice of a meditation-chested crooner.

Italy's Pupi Avati travelled to America for *Bix*: a pleasant but lukewarm homage to jazz cornetist Bix Beiderbecke, which mustered fine new actors and period decor but failed to explain Bix's greatness or the demons that drove him to an alcoholic's grave. At least Spike Lee remained on his own turf in *Jungle Fever*, hammering his theme of miscegenation with customary pugnacity. The black architect hero sows wild oats with his new white Italian secretary. Uproar rages in four households: wives, brothers, fathers and

boyfriends, both Italian and black, air their disgust in high-decibel scenes made even louder by the constant musical accompaniment. Lee's vitality is undeniable; if only he would learn to relax and make films about people, not caricatures. Some of Lee's earnestness has filtered through to John Singleton, who excited many with his debut film *Boyz n the Hood*. This drama about the difficulties of growing up straight in south central Los Angeles is fluently made and winningly

acted, though surprisingly soft. No wonder Singleton is to Hollywood's taste: aged 23, and a year out of film school, he has already clinched a three-year deal with Columbia.

The Australian Jocelyn Moorhouse achieved a far quicker debut in *Frost*, a strange tale of a blind man who tries by taking photographs to document the world he senses but cannot see. The film's combination of tenderness and eccentric comedy marks Moorhouse out as a definite talent to watch. Sean Penn, actor and hellraiser, made his own directing debut in *The Indian Runner*, a lugubrious, tired drama about two brothers, one good, one bad.

The American film that won most favour was Barton Fink — the latest diversion from Joel and Ethan Coen. This deadpan comedy, set in 1941, spins the ridiculous tale of a socially conscious playwright lost before a typewriter in a Hollywood hotel, where he is supposedly writing a wrestling movie for Wallace Beery. A killjoy might complain about some script miscalculations and the unlikelihood of Beery wrestling. Pay no heed: exquisitely styled in grandiose images, and fired by an entrancing performance by John Turturro, *Barton Fink* remains a thorough delight. The press corps gave it that rarest of accolades: hardly anyone tipped up their seat with a bang and left.

Rivette makes every flick of pen, brush and eyelash, count

GALLERIES

Gem of a show cut down to 55 Corots

IMPROBABLE as it seems, the pattern of painter Jean-Baptiste-Camille Corot's career is similar to that of Henry Moore's. Both were long, and dogged initially by lack of public interest and general incomprehension. Then, in his middle years, Corot, like Moore, became unexpectedly famous. Hence, like Moore, he was driven into over-production and repetition, not so much from greed or need, as from understandable pleasure at being valued finally according to his merits.

Of course, in both cases this diminishing of quality control led to a reaction. The old

John Russell Taylor applauds an elegant solution to the problem of choosing representative work

canard, "Corot painted 2,000 pictures, 4,000 of which are in America", counsels caution, not only because of the great number of forgeries about, but also because there are so many genuine Corots, and so many of them are not very good.

Clearly a show such as the new Corot (under the auspices

of London's South Bank Centre, but beginning its tour in Manchester) must face this dilemma squarely. Showing only 55 works, the organisers are not duty-bound to show how bad Corot could be. But a very precise exercise of the critical faculty is needed to select only the best.

One easy option would be to confine attention to early Corot, which is also what would be most appreciated these days. But the later Corot that was most prized in the 1850s and 1860s must have something to be said for it.

The organisers, Michael Clarke of the Scottish National Gallery and John Leighton of the National Gallery in London, have taken the right, bold decision by trying, with considerable success, to balance the merits of the two principal periods and styles.

On the left of the gallery, his Italian-influenced paintings, with their trim, almost Biedermeier clarity, hold immediate appeal. As one of the new books on Corot, Peter Galassi's *Corot in Italy* (Yale), points out, they balance an awareness of the classical landscape tradition, deriving from Claude and Poussin, with a new interest in open-air painting from a subject right before the painter's eyes.

To the right in the Manchester gallery are the works of Corot's maturity — or decadence, depending on your viewpoint. Here are the larger, misty, feathery/buttery paintings of ideal landscapes. They often include a human figure



Well known: *Mlle de Foudras*, by Corot

or two which, by remaining tactfully hazy, can be read either as people from pastoral myth or as real denizens of contemporary France. In these paintings is, unmistakably, a retreat from reality. In their own day they were regarded as more refined, whereas later it again became a quasi-moral issue.

There are many terrible Corots in this style, but none is to be seen here. They may be shamelessly generalised, like Glasgow's large and splendid *Pastorale*, *Souvenir of Italy* (1873), but the magic imposes its own kind of precision.

Certain continuing weaknesses may also be observed. Excellent as he can be as a portraitist (not for nothing is *Mlle de Foudras* one of the best-known images in the show), Corot always had trouble integrating figures convincingly into landscape. His

studies of Poussin and Claude, so evident early on, seem to have given him ambitions that did not quite accord with his natural inclination and abilities. In this area, at least, the later pictures are far superior.

In his own book, *Corot and the Art of Landscape* (British Museum Press), Michael Clarke concentrates on the evolution of Corot's ideas about landscape, and the way that affected his practice. That approach convincingly makes sense of Corot's career as a whole, leaving a preference for early or late to individual choice, but clearly pointing out the intentions and advantages of both.

Corot, Manchester City Art Galleries, Princess Street, Manchester (061-236 5244) Mon-Sat 10am-5.45pm, Sun 2-5.45pm, until June 30. Admission free.

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Theatre, Concerts and Radio

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Conor Cruise O'Brien

No tears for a bad loser

Complaining about Labour lies will do the government no good with the voters

Deception is inseparable from war, and also from democratic politics. In wartime, though, deception is unlimited; in democratic political campaigns, it is restricted and ritualised within established tacit conventions.

During an election, each of the main contenders represents the policies of the other in as unfavourable a light as seems plausible. To each side the picture presented by the other looks like malicious misrepresentation. And so, within certain limits, it is. Facts and statistics are selected, and events and intentions interpreted, not to bring out objective truth, but to damage the other side. To that extent, both parties lie, not just in one particular election, but in every election. And the electorate understands as much, expects it, and allows for it. That is how the democratic process works.

So it is generally unwise for the loser in a particular election to complain about the lies of the winner. There may be exceptions, in cases where it can be proved that the winning side has deliberately and consciously practised greater misrepresentation than is normal during elections. But for the complaints to be accepted, there has to be "a smoking gun".

Suppose, for example, that during the Monmouth by-election Neil Kinnock had written a letter acknowledging that the Tories did not really intend to take hospitals out of the National Health Service, but saying that Labour could win the election by pretending this was their intention. Had the Tories got hold of such a letter, their complaints about "Labour's lies" might carry weight.

As it is, they clearly don't. In present conditions, when the Tories complain of lying, they are far less likely to be complaining about losing. And people don't like politicians to complain about losing.

A general complaint about having had one's policies misrepresented in the course of a by-election comes close to being a complaint about democracy itself, since such misrepresentations are a routine part of the democratic process. Politicians who go on like that sound as though they are beginning to find the temperature of the kitchen dial rising. And he also sound as if they hope to avoid responsibility for their own political incompetence by blaming not only the mendacity of their opponents, but the stupidity of the electorate that was taken in.

Since Monmouth, Mr Major and his colleagues have been sounding rattled, and rattled into shrillness. There is no better way to make Mr Kinnock look like a future prime minister than to let him say at election times, politicians are implicitly accorded a licence equi-

valent to that given to advocates in court. Unlike witnesses, advocates are not required to swear to speak "the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth". They try to focus attention on such truths as suit the interests of their client, and to cast doubt on truths that may be prejudicial to those interests. No competent advocate, having lost a case, complains about the methods of the winning advocate, which — while morally dubious — are routine in the courts of law. The same should apply in politics.

Many people take the view that while systematic misrepresentation at least verges on lying, but to damage the other side. To that extent, both parties lie, not just in one particular election, but in every election. And the electorate understands as much, expects it, and allows for it. That is how the democratic process works.

Thus at Monmouth, Labour presented the Tories' NHS policy, and imputed intentions to the government, in a way that played on people's fears. No doubt this was unscrupulous, but it should not have surprised the Tories, who have often been as unscrupulous themselves — and found it electorally rewarding.

Every electoral system tends to favour the unscrupulous rather than the scrupulous, as long as the people in the two categories are equally competent. Voters are aware of this, and on the whole have a slight penchant for the unscrupulous. W.B. Yeats wrote: "The Muse is a woman and loves wary lads who tell lies." The muse of politics gave her award at Monmouth last week.

In representing Mr Kinnock as a wary lad who tells lies, the Tories are unwittingly building him up. Until now they have represented him as a piling, moralistic sort of chap, not fit for the harsh world of reality. Now they are in danger of being seen to wear that cap themselves. Mr Kinnock, in contrast, begins to appear formidable and rather desking. And he is responding to the new image. His charge of "pompous whingeing" in response to the charge of lying suggested growing confidence.

The Tories, as the party of competition, sound unimpressive when they loudly complain about a competition they lost. The line they are now taking, after that loss, is not conducive to winning the big competition soon to come. When politicians are seen to take the high moral ground, many people instinctively say, "Come off it!"



'As the Tories accuse him of lying, Kinnock begins to appear formidable and dashing'

William Waldegrave has a problem. It is not that his opponents are lying blackguards or that nurses and doctors are dangerous people to offend. It is that people believe the Tories instinctively want to run down or privatise the National Health Service — and the statistics, as usual, are too ambiguous to test the claim that Thatcherite poachers make the best social-market gamekeepers.

Mr Waldegrave can say that health service spending has risen from £9 billion in 1979 to £27 billion in 1990. He can say that this is an increase of 30 per cent above the rate of inflation. But his opponents can just as easily counter that average medical costs have risen some 30 per cent faster than retail prices during this period. They can add that Britain's ageing population is pushing up the demand for health provision by 2 per cent a year, amounting to an increase of 24 per cent since 1979. Therefore they can conclude that the Tories have cut the resources available to each NHS patient by about 4 per cent.

The opposition might also point out, although the Labour party is unlikely to do so, that 1979 was a particularly poor year for NHS funding (because of Labour's intense squeeze on public spending and wages), so that the Tory performance since 1979 is flattered by the comparison.

NHS figures are not for massaging, says Anatole Kaletsky

Health: where the market's invisible hand fails to work

But such statistical jousts are only the prelude to any serious tournament over the health service figures. There are then claims and counter-claims about efficiency and productivity improvements, which the government believes to be adding 7 per cent to the cash available to NHS hospitals for patient treatments. There are also the arguments about the relative effectiveness of preventive treatments, costly drugs and expensive machinery. Finally there are disputes about the hospitals' prospects in the property development business. Property development profits were worth £160 million to NHS hospitals last year, but this was 44 per cent less than budgeted, a shortfall which accounts for much of the present financial stringency.

What, then, can Mr Waldegrave do to establish his credentials as a reliable guardian of the health service? Perhaps he can rely on the Tories' reputation for meanness. It is not just because of public

spending strictures that Britain spends 5.2 per cent of its gross domestic product on medicine, while America spends 12 per cent and most European countries spend between 8 and 10 per cent. So inefficient is America's private system, that the government there spends as high a proportion of the GDP on Medicare and Medicaid as Britain does on the entire NHS — and those programmes provide only for the old and very poor. The NHS is actually more efficient than any privately-funded or market-based system. Medicine is among the few human activities (defence and possibly education are two others) which market forces manage less efficiently than government officials. If only ministers could bring themselves to acknowledge this without equivocation — not just as a moral sentiment or a political commitment, but as a fact of economic life — then voters might be less suspicious about hidden agendas lurking behind the limited

applications of market incentives. After all, the market can sometimes play a useful role in a health service that is principally run by government.

There are three reasons why Adam Smith's invisible hand does not work efficiently as a regulator of the medical sector. First, in a modern humane society, nobody can be denied health treatment on grounds of poverty. Secondly, the consumer does not understand what he is buying and therefore tends to assume that he will benefit from the most expensive treatment available. Thirdly, the need for treatment is an unpredictable and medical bills are potentially so ruinous that in a market system every rational consumer would rely on insurance.

The combination of these unusual characteristics produces obstacles to market efficiency which, judging by the experience in America and other countries, are insuperable. On the consumer's side there is

the well-known problem of "moral hazard": the desire of every insurance policyholder to recoup as much as possible of his premiums by making claims. This can partly be remedied by limited cash payments for particular services, such as visits to the GP. But for the most expensive treatments, such deductibles could cover only a small proportion of the treatment cost, and so would have little effect.

As for controlling costs, competing private insurers would probably be far less effective than the British Treasury, for a reason which economists should find obvious. The British government has a virtual monopoly over both the supply of medicine and the employment of doctors. As a result it can abuse its power by keeping down the salaries of doctors and nurses and rationing the supply of healthcare.

Of course, insurance could be grafted on to a publicly controlled health system, to simulate some features of a market. Citizens could be made to buy insurance instead of paying for the NHS through their taxes. But this would amount to no more than a change in the tax system. Or, instead of paying for health through income tax and VAT, people could finance it through a per-capita tax, equivalent to £500 for every person in the country. Anyone for poll tax?

On course for a winner

Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the Tote, welcomes moves to make the bookies stump up

Although not comfortable, the state of the leisure industries is not too far from a state of recession. Much money is invested in racing and it employs many people, but it is an entertainment on which people go easy when they are short of cash, as most feel they are now.

Apart from the BBC, which is legally able to enforce its licence fee, racing is the only industry with a hypothecated tax with legal penalties for failure to pay. The tax is collected by the Levy Board and distributed for the benefit of racing in all its aspects. This supplements the annual £200 million or so spent by owners, racecourses, spectators and other racing elements. The tax is levied on off-course bookmaking and is in practice paid by the punters: it is added to their deductions after the government's 8 per cent betting duty.

In the financial year April 1, 1991 to March 31, 1992, the levy yield is expected to be no more than £37.2 million. This falls substantially short of the £41.5 million previously forecast, and has forced the Levy Board to cut sharply the amount it can give for prize money and for the fixtures it will fully support, and to curtail its help to racecourses for new buildings to improve amenities for the racers. The Levy Board is unreasonably criticised for not knowing that last week's cuts would be needed on top of earlier reductions in anticipated money increases already announced. When the Chancellor of the Exchequer is distinctly suckled about what the recession is doing



Looking to the future: the committee's proposals would help racing over its present hurdles

to the economy, the Levy Board is unlikely to be more clairvoyant.

Leviable turnover is going up and down like a yo-yo, with off-course betting shops in Scotland, the North and parts of the Midlands tending to show a slight rise, well below inflation, and those in London and the South fluctuating between very small increases and actual falls in cash turnover. Meanwhile, the paying attendance at racecourses continues to decline, although it holds up better in some parts of the

country northwards from York. All this may give the Treasury a better idea than it has now of what is really happening. The signal for the end of the recession will be when the number of individual betting slips starts to increase. There will then be a consequential rise in leviable turnover. But it will be nowhere near enough to meet racing's demand for higher rewards for the product it provides to bookmakers — out of which, it is claimed, they make too much. Enter the Commons horse af-

airs select committee with its report on the horse-race betting levy (published yesterday). I did not believe that a committee of MPs with little practical experience of racing and betting would contribute much light. I was wrong. It has gone to the heart of many matters with recommendations for changes which should be implemented (though not quite all) without gathering dust on Home Office shelves. Those connected with racing should ponder all the recommendations, al-

though I have space for but a few. Bang goes racing's always-for-jorn hope that the government should be persuaded to give it direct aid. Self-help must prevail. The committee sees that even the unique hypothecated tax cannot last indefinitely, and urges the government to plan its long-term replacement. But, admitting the big bookmakers' business skills, the committee rightly considers that racing would be trounced if a market free-for-all came before the industry itself had developed comparable business abilities.

Instead it wisely proposes for a start that the levy yield for the year 1992-93 should be increased to not less than £50 million, with the big bookmakers bearing the brunt, as they can well afford, without deductions from punters being increased: a healthy black eye for the three biggest bookmakers, which have more than half the off-course betting turnover.

The committee, to serve punters' wishes and to maximise the levy, wants betting offices open until 9pm when there is evening racing. This recommendation, which I enthusiastically back, may founder on the disagreement of on-course bookmakers and greyhound-track owners who fear reduced attendance. The committee favours Sunday racing without cash off-course betting. This could be immediately implemented by amending the Sunday Sports Bill which I piloted through the Lords but which the Commons rejected.

My bill included off-course cash as well as on-course betting, because of the danger of illegal betting if off-course betting offices were not open simultaneously. I would happily give the committee's Sunday on-course betting a whirl, if illegal betting rose alarmingly, the case for opening the high street betting offices would be unanswerable.

I look forward to meeting this imaginative committee on June 10, when I shall give evidence at its enquiry into the Tote. It has produced the best report on racing I have seen; I hope it will do a similarly stimulating job for us.

...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

I was only yesterday morning that I cycled to the local baker to buy a croissant. He is normally an obliging fellow, but from his very first words I noticed a severe deterioration in his sense of customer relations.

"Croissants?" he barked. "Croissants? I don't know who you're intending to impress but it's certainly not me. Pretentious and precious! Stuff and nonsense! Bunkum and balderdash! You'll have a decent ready-sliced white loaf or you'll have now, and now be off with ye."

I scuttled out without a backward glance. Could this be the very same baker who won our local award for a Smile award? In times of distress, I tend to fall back on sweets, so I cycled swiftly over to the sweetshop.

"Do you have any Maltesers?" I asked the dear old lady behind the counter.

"We might," she replied. "But then again we might not. What's it to you, you daft praddock with your airs and graces and lah-dah manner? Digestives too good for ye, are they? If you'll not mind me sayin', the sooner you're out this shop the better for those as work 'ere. Be off with ye or you'll feel my shoe-leather on the seat of your pants!"

I can take a hint, and I left the sweetshop in a flurry. What had come over our usually well-mannered village? What accounted for the shopkeepers' new-found shrillness? With a sigh of relief, I caught sight of the jolly postman coming towards me. He knows everything that

happens, and has always proved a reliable source of information about all the comings and goings in the village.

"Tell me," I said, "why has everyone become so blunt?"

"What's it to you, mush?" he snapped back.

"Everybody suddenly seems so... different," I said.

Perhaps he noticed my bewilderment, for something seemed to cause him to soften.

"Don't you read your Sunday papers, you blockhead?" he said, wiping me good-humouredly across the head with his postbag before landing a playful punch in my stomach.

As I nursed the bruises with a doctored, he told me that the whole village had spent Sunday reading extracts from the memoirs of Sir Bernard Ingham. Those who had missed the reviews had read the interviews. Now, he said, there was no turning back. The village was awash with Inghamania, and everybody was paying homage to this hero of our times.

At that moment, I noticed that the village green had overnight become home to a three-quarter-size re-creation of Hebbens Bridge, the West Yorkshire town from which Sir Bernard hailed. Everywhere, villagers were chewing nutritious scraps, comparing their bating averages, boasting about when times were really hard, muttering "There's nowt so queer as folk", polishing cobbles, giving each other firm handshakes and screaming homespun wisdom from the rooftops. I quickly realised that I was

the only person in the entire village who had missed Sir Bernard's memoirs. Over the past few weeks the newspapers have been filled almost exclusively with Ingham, Madonna and Gascoigne.

Finding myself hopelessly muddled (what was the title of the song that took Paul Gascoigne to Number One? In what year did Bernard Ingham reach Number Ten? When did Madonna's first column — "Living in the Material World" — appear in *The Hebbens Bridge Gazette*), I have cancelled all subscriptions.

So it was only yesterday, for instance, that I learnt the sad news that Sir Bernard had sustained a serious knee injury in Cannes.

Entering into the spirit, I marched into the three-quarter-size pub and asked, in as bluff a tone as I could muster, for a pint of best.

"Monumental cheek," replied the barman. "Come off it. You set yourself up as some sort of guardian of the common weal and then you have the sheer brass neck to repeat uncorroborated title-tattle concerning what's best and what isn't? You'd better learn responsibility, lad, and pretty damn sharpish!"

I flushed away and I am now in hiding, determined that I shall never succumb to the prevailing boom of Inghamania.

Never will this column provide refuge for blunt talk or Yorkshire maxims, for homespun wisdom or plain speech. As I always say, you should take a bloke as you finds 'im, and you can't say fairer than that.

A bridge too far for Philip?

Prince Philip, no stranger to controversy, looks set to ruffle feathers in Japan with his description of Japanese conduct during the second world war as "inhuman". He uses the word in a preface to a new book about the building of the Thai-Burma railway by prisoners of war. Washington will not be pleased, with Vice-President Dan Quayle leaving for Japan after glad-handing the Duke during the royal tour of America.

In his endorsement of Dr P.N. Davies's *The Man Behind the Bridge*, about Lt-Col Philip Toosey and the building of the bridge over the River Kwai, Prince Philip urges future generations to read how their predecessors "suffered and achieved". "Those of us who took part in the last war are only too familiar with the story of the campaigns against the Japanese," he writes. "And particularly with the inhuman treatment of both civil and military prisoners by their Japanese captors."

The words have prompted Tory backbencher Sir Julian Ridsdale, chairman of the British Japanese Parliamentary Group, to advise Philip to "forgive and forget" and stop looking back.

"It is time to turn over a new page and be more constructive in our relationship with the Japanese," says Ridsdale. "They are doing their best to cement our friendship, and so should we. We should be welcoming the Japanese as our ally, and not looking back."

Sir Peter Parker will be embarrassed. In two weeks' time he will announce details of an elaborate programme of events throughout Britain to mark the Japan Festival 91, whose aim is to strengthen Anglo-Japanese friendship with a three-month celebration of Japanese life.



Britain's first women in space. Helen Sharman has secured her place in every future dictionary of modern quotations with her witty one-liner "space is out of this world". Much too clever to be spontaneous, said the cynics, suspecting months of careful scripting by the PR experts. The charge is vigorously denied by Partners in PR, the firm which is handling Miss Sharman's public relations. In which case, why on earth is she employing them?

Out, out, out!

Norman Tebbit and Edwina Currie have been struck by a sudden shyness. Neither appears in Tory colleague Julian Critchley's first novel, *Hung Parliament* — at their own insistence. No such inhibition has gripped John Major or Mrs Thatcher, both appear as themselves — even though the book concerns a Thatcherite challenge to Major's leadership. "Norman objected to my putting words into his mouth," says Critchley. "Now he just gets a couple of brief mentions as part of the wallpaper."

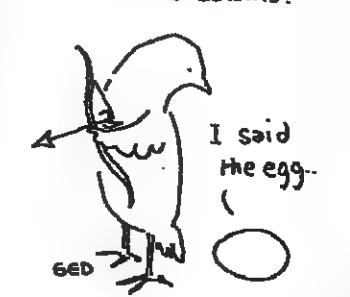
In place of Tebbit there is a fictional character called Kevin Curford, a BBC-bashing former trade and industry secretary whom Mrs Thatcher likes to refer to as "the captain of my pretorian guard". In a devastating Commons speech, Curford triggers a comeback attempt by Mrs Thatcher. "This is not so much a Major

government," he thunders, "it is a Heseltine government. We have sold our birthright for a soft coin."

Critchley, though, is careful to add: "Kevin Curford was no Tebbit... he was not as savage." The Chingford MP will no doubt take this as a sincere compliment. As for publicity-shy Mrs Currie, she objected to Critchley's working title, *Who Killed Edwina Currie?*

The title was not all that Critchley had to change. The first draft concerned an attempt to bring down Mrs Thatcher. After the events of last November it had to be swiftly rewritten.

Who killed Edwina?



Outdoor echoes

Opera-lovers will enjoy an extra delight at Glyndebourne during the season opening tonight with *The Marriage of Figaro*: *al fresco* music in the walled gardens as they arrive. In tribute to Mozart's bicentenary, Glyndebourne's general director, Anthony Whitworth-Jones, has resurrected the 18th-century practice of entertaining noble households with a *Harmonte*, a wind band of eight musicians performing outside.

The first of six specially commissioned pieces, related to the six Mozart operas to be performed this year, will be premiered on the terrace outside Glyndebourne's organ room this Saturday. Jonathan Dove says his

serenade, to be performed as a curtain-raiser to *Figaro*, has a period feel but contains no direct quotations from the opera. "I'm not interested in playing spot-the-tune with my audience," he says, adding that composers should never use direct quotations. "They always upstage the rest of the piece; they're the only bits people ever remember."

Potted history

Like their plants, Britain's gardeners come from a very best stock, and are above unseemly arguments about who has been exhibiting at the Chelsea Flower Show the longest. Nevertheless, two candidates emerged at yesterday's preview. Hillier, a Winchester nursery, has been exhibiting at the show since its inception in 1913, says Robert Hillier, "great-grandson of the exhibitor then."

"It's a shame," he says, "but many of the originals were small firms or even amateurs and have folded or been swallowed up. We are just about the only originals left." The firm has won a gold medal every year since 1947.

The Ingwerson family firm from East Grinstead has been exhibiting only since the late 1920s, but among individuals, Paul Ingwerson is probably the hardest perennial. "I started helping my father carry the flower pots as a small boy in the early 1930s," he says. "Apart from two years' national service, I have been here every year since" — the best part of 60 years.

His family connection with the organisers, the Royal Horticultural Society, is almost certainly unique. As a German immigrant, his father Walter was sent to work at the society's gardens at Wisley as a PoW throughout the first world war. He loved it so much that his connection with the RHS remained unbroken until his death last year.

EX-110150



THE POLYS ARE COMING

The government is trying to make secondary education less comprehensive in character, and higher education more so. In launching yesterday's series of education white papers himself, the prime minister sought to snatch from Labour a "big idea", education and training, for the coming election. No fewer than five cabinet ministers were on hand to help him make his point.

Mr Major may not have placed great store by academic qualifications, but he is shrewd enough to recognise that there is an ever-increasing slice of the population which does. By promising higher education to one school-leaver in three by the end of the decade, the Conservatives are raising the political stakes. Where "housing starts" once glittered on the political escutcheon, university places now outshine them. The prospect is of a bonanza for the academic world, as parties outbid each other with educational promises.

Unlike the great expansion of the 1960s, this one is to be characterised by institutional competition rather than a sudden burst of spending on new elite establishments. Growth is to be based on the polytechnics, who may now call themselves universities. Thus ends the binary system of "parallel" academic and technological institutions adumbrated by Labour's Anthony Crosland. It should begin to stamp out a distinction that covertly devalued technological education in Britain for two decades. If John Major really does end this distinction enshrined in Labour policy he can claim to have landed a blow for classlessness more effectively than in any other area of public policy.

The competition will now be fierce. Universities may begin to lose research money and their more glamorous departments. Higher education has developed, almost by accident, one of the welfare state's few true "voucher" systems. Students will go where they feel the education is best. Research will go where universities and polytechnics can most convince public and private sector patrons that they will get quality work. This need not mean lower standards. It will do more to revolutionise higher education in Britain than a dozen tedious rows between institutions, the government and the funding councils.

FREE OF THE PAST

The long-awaited emigration bill, finally passed by the Soviet parliament yesterday, is a real break with Russia's past. It gives ordinary Russians, for the first time in their history, the freedom to travel abroad and to emigrate — not as a political reward, a concession wheedled from the bureaucracy by bribes, or the result of outside pressure, but as a right.

The Soviet Union has at last made good its promise, given in signing the United Nations conventions on human rights and the Helsinki accords, to let its people go. Emigrants are no longer to be subject to the caprice and petty tyranny of the secretive Ovir visa office. They can leave their country with honour, not as outcasts who cannot return.

Throughout their history, Russians have longed to escape the prison of their vast country. Rarely have they been given the chance. In tsarist days, the prevailing belief was that all souls in the country belonged to the tsar. The tsarist police, like their Soviet successors, kept behind troublemakers and agitators, those who would give a bad impression abroad, those who failed to grease the palms of the right petty functionaries. The regulations, often unclear, were arbitrary. Pushkin, Russia's greatest poet, was never able to travel, to his great regret; Turgenev and Gogol spent long periods abroad.

Revolution produced a forced exodus of a million people, fleeing starvation and famine or banished by the Bolsheviks. The frontiers closed rapidly behind them, so that by Stalin's death even war brides were sent to camps for trying to join their husbands

At the secondary level, the government is still floundering. It is hamstringing by its terror of appearing to dilute the quality of traditional sixth forms. The new programme means retaining A levels but boosting alternative qualifications, and freeing further education and sixth-form colleges from local authority control.

The government's dogged insistence on keeping A levels in the face of widespread opposition from almost all sides of education does not pass Mr Major's test of maintaining quality without divisiveness. A levels perpetuate a narrow and academically exclusive post-16 schooling. Constantly saying that a parallel vocational system with diplomas "must not be seen as a second-class education" is the sort of futile platitude uttered since the 1944 Act. The message of what the government is doing in higher education is that the second class survives as long as institutions are separated by tradition and esteem, irrespective of resources.

The best hope for the non-posh post-16 sector lies in the curiosity that further and sixth-form colleges will become self-governing. While this opens up a new gulf with the comprehensive (and even grammar) school sixth forms, it is at least a kind of competition in which both sides have something going for them at present. Of all the structures of secondary schooling that arose from the reforms of the mid-1960s, the middle school plus sixth-form college has been the most cost-effective and robust. The best hope is that one day all post-16 education will be seen in the same "comprehensive" mode as post-18 education is now to be regarded.

A bewildering variety of institutions now offer education for 16 to 18-year-olds, with a bewildering variety of opportunities, incentives and vouchers. Whether such variety will yield higher performance and the "fusion of status" that the government wants will be in doubt as long as the examination system remains archaic. The danger is that a new hierarchy of status will take over from the old. But who knows? A new dawn for the universities and polytechnics could itself undermine the ancient regime in the sixth forms.

TOO TIMID WITH DOGS

Faced with roaring public anger at attacks by Britain's burgeoning army of dangerous dogs, the home secretary, Kenneth Baker, uttered a pathetic yelp of his own yesterday. The government apparently thinks dogs trying to eat children is not a good idea. Steps are in hand, meetings held. Perhaps that very responsible could be punished. It is all very difficult. Trust us to do the right thing.

Every day that Mr Baker fails to take the one action which will remove this danger to life and limb, his responsibility for the ensuing injuries increases to match that of the dogs' owners. Last year in London alone there were 125 known attacks by pit bull terriers, 79 by rottweilers. The government should have acted months ago.

There is only one policy which will quieten public anxiety, and that is the total banning of breeds known to be a threat to public safety. Banning means their importation should be prevented and their possession should be a criminal offence. Above all it means all rottweilers, pit bull terriers, tosas and similar breeds must be rounded up and humanely destroyed, forthwith.

This is not an extreme policy. The RSPCA puts down hundreds of thousands of unwanted dogs a year. The law already allows the destruction of any dog that has proved it is a danger by attacking. Mr Baker merely has to agree that certain breeds of dog are already known to be dangerous. It is irresponsible to insist on further evidence of this danger before eliminating them.

Mr Baker is belatedly prepared to will the end — the removal of the threat from these

dogs in homes and streets — without ordaining the necessary means. As well as favouring the introduction of dog muzzles, he suggests criminal penalties for dog owners. They would be liable for prosecution the moment their dog attacks somebody. In due course even fools would realise that just to keep such a breed was to invite a criminal conviction. But first there would have to be publicity for further savage attacks, with consequent injury or death, followed by prosecutions and jail sentences.

Mr Baker seems to be wanting to use the issue of dangerous dogs to make a point about civic responsibility. If so, he should find some less gory way of engaging in the moral education of the public, one that does not require children as victims for demonstration purposes.

Dangerous breeds are difficult to define; and what about cross-breeds? Mr Baker's remedy of making owners criminally liable implies that they should be able to tell which breeds are dangerous. If laymen are supposed to be able to make that distinction, better still to lay it down by law, as now in the case of wild animals. And if there is a problem with cross-breeds, let a panel decide, dog by dog, the expense of the exercise to be paid by the owner. There would surely be few appeals.

There is no shortage of harmless breeds for those who wish to keep dogs as charming pets. Those who choose rottweilers and pit bull terriers do so from a sick desire to put other people in fear. Mr Baker has all the power he needs to stop this nonsense.

Homes for natives or newcomers?

From Mr Patrick M. Forman

Sir, Three items about rural housing which you reported together on May 13 — relaxation of planning controls to build more low-cost homes, local councils' attempts to keep speculators out of the market and the similar aims of the Rural Housing Trust — reflect the belief that people who live on in the place where they were brought up thereby acquire a prior right in the housing market. This begs a number of questions.

How is one to define a deserving native against a "wealthy incomer"? We were all brought up somewhere. How do we qualify for a ticket to return to our roots? Are retired peopleumping home to their native health to be denied access because their jobs and careers have taken them elsewhere? And are they all rich?

In tune with the spirit of the age, some might question the social propriety of encouraging young people to stay put in their villages, rather than push out into the world beyond. And who is to define the class that is to be protected from the free play of market forces?

Lawyers would find it difficult to draft covenants designed to restrict successive sales of houses to low-income locals — a truly amorphous identity, and who would perform the unenviable task of separating the sheep from the goats?

We are all citizens of the same country. The conception that time and place of residence should determine rights to particular parcels of land is inherently absurd and unwelcome in the long term. There is an element of romantic make-believe in the desire to preserve the village life of another age.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK FORMAN,
25 Devonshire Road, Cambridge.

From Councillor Mrs V. B. Bishop
Sir, The government circular requiring local authorities to release land on the edge of rural settlements for low-cost housing merely confirms what many authorities have been doing for the past two years. By granting planning permission on these sites to housing associations successive low-cost owners/tenants can benefit from each house.

It is, therefore, very difficult to understand why the government refuses to allow similar rules to apply to the sale of council houses. Council house purchasers, many of whom buy at huge discounts, paying £20,000 for a £50,000 house, can sell on after only two or three years, at full market price, without any return to the council. That house is then lost to the low-cost market.

If housing association rules applied, the owner would still benefit from his share of increased market value and the council would be able to help another low-cost buyer through the same house.

Yours faithfully,
V. B. BISHOP,
The Rowwalk, Hauxton Road,
Little Shelford, Cambridge.
May 13.

Schwarzkopf award

From Mr John Stobart

Sir, Why carp at General Schwarzkopf being invested with an honorary knighthood in advance of the announcement of other awards for services in the recent Gulf campaign (letter, May 17)? He certainly "led from the front", which is the ultimate requirement for an officer in any service in any country, and a knight, honorary or otherwise, is probably the highest award of its style that will be awarded. The general surely merits this early announcement and bestowal on every ground.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STOBART,
24 Finborough Road, SW10.

From Mr Rodney Faber
Sir, The accolades for US General Norman Schwarzkopf and Saudi Field Commander Lieutenant-General Prince Khalid bin Sultan (report, May 18) are no doubt fully deserved. I would suggest that at this time of appreciation the contribution made by Yitzhak Shamir, prime minister of Israel, should not be forgotten. His policy of restraint during the provocation of repeated snail attacks on civilian centres of his uninvoiced country was no small contribution to maintaining the alliance.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY FABER,
37 Darwin Court,
Gloucester Avenue, NW1.

Profits and principles

From Mr Kenneth G. Braidwood

Sir, How depressingly akin to the simple absolutism of the old Labour party is the absolutism expressed by Nicholas Ridley in his article, "Competition is the key" (May 14). With the Labour party it used to be "if it makes a profit or is competitive, away with it". For Mr Ridley the equally simple "if it doesn't make a profit or is not competitive, away with it".

His analogy of the provision of the state education and health services and that of housing well illustrates where the absurdity of such simple absolutism can lead. In common sense the provision of housing can be well dictated by purse and taste — not even the most wealthy all year for Eaton Square.

In the provision of health and education services we aim to benefit the nation as a whole. We do not

Time barrier on Down's abortions

From Mr Michael Windridge

Sir, My wife and I have personal cause for expressing our delight at reading the report of May 14 (later editions) from your medical correspondent about the launching of a new blood test "that detects over 80 per cent of pregnancies affected by Down's Syndrome".

As a matter of urgent concern, however, may I draw some related matters to the attention of your readers, particularly those who are expectant mothers in their 30s and 40s, and their hospital and medical advisers:

1. It is usually only at around 20 weeks' pregnancy that an ultrasound can effectively detect fetal heart disorders which, in 20 per cent of cases, are the result of Down's Syndrome chromosome disorder (80 per cent of Down's Syndrome children have heart disorders).
2. Changes to the Abortion Act 1967, reducing the legal limit from 28 weeks to 24 weeks, were contained in section 37 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990, and were implemented on April 1 this year.
3. There is, therefore, a period of only four weeks in which a hospital has time to conduct further tests to confirm Down's Syndrome, leaving

even less time to the mother and her family in the choice of whether legally to terminate or to proceed with the Down's Syndrome pregnancy.

4. At least one leading London maternity hospital has very recently tightened up the ultrasound department procedures to take account of this acute timetable dilemma.

5. Although the new abortion law, now governed by section D of clause 37(1) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 makes provision for the legal termination of pregnancy beyond 24 weeks where "there is a substantial risk that if the child were born it would suffer from such physical or mental abnormalities as to be seriously handicapped", there is significant medical confusion as to whether a Down's Syndrome pregnancy, with or without an accompanying fetal heart disorder, falls within the category of such physical or mental abnormality as to be seriously handicapped.

Sadly, of greater public concern, it seems that the matter is likely to have to be resolved by the law courts and not by Parliament.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL WINDRIDGE,
33 Mablethorpe Road, SW6,
May 14.

Challenge over double-tax issue

From Mr Tim Smith, MP for Beaconsfield (Conservative)

Sir, Mr John Maples, Economic Secretary to the Treasury (May 17), makes the dispute over clause 50 of the Finance Bill sound beguilingly simple.

He says that there was a gap between the end of building societies' annual accounting periods in 1985-6 and the beginning of the new quarterly arrangements on April 6, 1986. His difficulty is that the law provided that the building societies' liability in respect of this period was met by paying over the tax due in respect of their annual accounting periods.

To get the tax they wanted, the Treasury had to raise a second assessment in respect of the same tax year. The House of Lords ruled that this double taxation introduced by regulation was subsequently approved by Parliament in the Finance Act 1986.

It is far from clear that Parliament intended to tax the building societies twice in respect of the same tax year. Clause 50 represents the third attempt by the Treasury to achieve their declared objective: the Finance Acts 1985 and 1986 both having failed to do so. Even if some tax deducted from interest paid to depositors is not paid over to the Treasury I doubt whether Parliament should now agree five years later to retrospective legislation of this kind.

Yours etc.,
TIM SMITH (Vice-Chairman,
Conservative Parliamentary
Finance Committee),
House of Commons,
May 17.

From the Director-General of the Building Societies Association

Sir, The essence of the earlier arrangements for the annual payment of composite-rate tax by building societies was that the tax paid by societies in January each year covered the basic-rate income tax liability of their investors for the whole of the tax year (from April 6 to April 5 following), irrespective of the dates of payment of interest to

the investors in that tax year or of the particular society's accounting date.

The government is perfectly entitled to make changes in the basis of assessment to and payment of tax and has done so in a number of areas. In doing so, however, it should not introduce transitional provisions which effectively ignore the previous basis. The details of the transitional provisions for interest in 1985-6 are a potential precedent for other areas.

The Chancellor announced in March that the Inland Revenue would be consulting shortly on simpler alternatives for assessing self-employed. If clause 50 is not removed from the Finance Bill the transition to any simpler system could well involve a period of double taxation. Yet, on the basis of the argument in the economic secretary's letter, the Government would be able to say that "no profits will be taxed more than once".

Yours sincerely,
M. J. BOLEAT,
Director-General,
The Building Societies Association,
3 Savile Row, W1,
May 17.

From the Managing Director of the Greenwich Building Society

Sir, Mr Maples continues to miss the point over the double taxation of building society interest.

The Greenwich is a local building society, but we were particularly badly affected by the proposals and, because of our year-end, the period of double taxation was almost a whole year.

The amount involved is £1.9 million, which is small compared to the sums claimed by some very large societies but it represented 2 per cent of our assets at the time. More significantly, however, it represents more than 30 per cent of our current reserves.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. NICHOLS,
Managing Director,
Greenwich Building Society,
279/283 Greenwich High Road, SE10,
May 17.

Rivals in Europe

From Professor S. F. Bush

Sir, To speak, as Derek Prag does (May 15) of foreign policy as an example of things which European states can do better jointly is plainly absurd. Even more than within Europe, Germany, France and Italy are our bitter rivals for trade and influence in that 95 per cent of the world which lies outside the European Community, as anyone who has travelled in the Americas, Asia and Africa can testify.

It is no more sensible to talk (as the media do incessantly) of our European "partners" than to talk of ICI and du Pont as "partners" in the world chemical industry, or Everton and Liverpool as "partners" in the FA Cup. "Competitors" is the word, not "partners".

Britain has a much greater stake in the countries of the non-EC world than any other member of the EC through the spread of the English language and culture and our seminal role in founding about half of

those countries. We have in fact (1988-9) a substantial positive balance of trade with the non-EC countries which goes some way to offsetting the huge (£15 billion) negative balance with the EC.

Any joint EC foreign policy, like the joint agricultural policy, like the joint fisheries policy and so on, is therefore bound to be at our expense, as other EC countries manoeuvre to enjoy our advantage.

Mr Prag's fantastic claim that "on balance, the existence of the EC has probably been the greatest bulwark of free trade" is made at a time when the EC is on the verge of provoking by the breakdown in the Gatt negotiations the most destructive trade war in history, conscripting Britain to fight our natural friends and allies in the English-speaking world, tarring us in fact with the EC protectionist brush.

Yours faithfully,
S. F. BUSH,
Genval, Millstone Close,
Poynton, Cheshire,
May 15.

Want luxurious cancer operations or cheap cancer operations?

We do want our children's education to relate to their native ability to learn and train and not to the parents' vagaries of taste or purse.

Yours sincerely,
K. G. BRAIDWOOD,
15 Penbrooke Court,
Edwards Square,
Kensington, W8,
May 15.

From Dr Julian Neal

Sir, I fear that Mr Ridley has revealed a little more than he intended when comparing the NHS to the German model of health care. By stating that "we in Britain have not succeeded in generating enough

wealth to pay for services of German standards", and following this remarkably candid admission with "To follow the German model would be immensely expensive", he appears to give credence to those who criticise successive governments for failing to fund the NHS adequately.

It is revealing to note that in 1987 Germany spent 8.2 per cent of its gross domestic product on health care compared with just 6.1 per cent in the United Kingdom. Per capita this represents (in US dollars) for Germany \$1,093 compared with \$758 for the United Kingdom (source: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: Health Data File, 1989).

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN NEAL,
Byways, Forestside,
Nr Rowlands Castle,
Hampshire,
May 14.

Use of detectors in metal art thefts

From Mr Dennis Jordan

Sir, Your Diary (May 13) reports a discussion with museum chiefs from around the world to find ways to combat the multi-million-pound trade in stolen art and archaeological treasures. It points out the concern particularly felt by foreign delegates about the plundering of ancient burial sites and castle and monastery grounds in Britain. "It is reaching epidemic proportions", said one.

No doubt the foreign delegates included such from Italy, Turkey and Greece. It is comforting to note their concern for our heritage, particularly as, according to regular press reports, the plundering of sites of antiquity in their respective countries continues apace.

To make British metal detector-users the whipping boy for thefts, presumably — as most such sites mentioned would have been listed as ancient monuments — from scheduled sites or by trespass, can be likened to blaming quarry-blasting experts for gelignite safe-breaking. The problem is not the tool but the criminal use of such. New legislation is not required to prohibit trespass or theft.

The assumption that all ancient metal artefacts illegally obtained derive only from the use of a metal detector is fallacious. Attempts by archaeology establishments to corrupt the public perception of the legitimate hobby of responsible metal detection reflect the unwillingness of some professionals to share scholarship with amateurs and others. But why else are the professionals there? More to the point, who pays them?

Yours faithfully,
D. JORDAN
(Research officer,
National Council
for Metal Detecting),
3 Chapel Close,
Fulham Market, Norfolk.

Population limits

From Sir Charles Morrison, MP for Devizes (Conservative)

Sir, A major challenge in the last decade of the 20th century will be to meet the demand from the developing world for contraception. Today 381 million couples use family planning; by the year 2000 567 million couples will need such services.

In its 1991 State of the World Population Report the UN population fund (UNFPA) is calling for an investment of \$9 billion a year to meet this target — a doubling of the present funding.

If these demands are not met we will condemn countless thousands of women to bear unwanted children and to damage their health and risk their lives by resorting to dangerous methods of avoiding pregnancies.

Not only will the long-term future be bleak for the whole world, but also in the short term the extent of natural disasters, such as the recent tragedy in Bangladesh, will be seriously exacerbated by the deaths of hundreds of thousands of children.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES MORRISON
(Chairman, All-Party
Parliamentary Group on
Population and Development),
House of Commons,
May 15.

Ulster plantation

From Mr J. Enock Powell

Sir, It was a pity that Dr O'Brien in his, as always, admirable piece on Ulster (May 15, "No yield for the brokers"), repeated the myth that "in the early 17th century Irish Catholics were dislodged to make room for Protestant settlers from Britain". It is a known fact that the number of males actually "planted" was negligible.

The deep differentiation of Northern Ireland from the rest of the island of Ireland is of much longer standing and more complex origin.

I am, Sir, etc.,
J. ENOCK POWELL,
33 South Eaton Place, SW1.
May 16.

Trees for the wood

From Mr John North

Sir, In my seven-acre garden I have approximately 10,000 sycamore and 5,000 beech self-sown seedlings from trees which I have planted over the years.

I have tried to give them away to friends, garden centres, and the county council without success. It seems a pity that nature's bounty can be frustrated in this way.

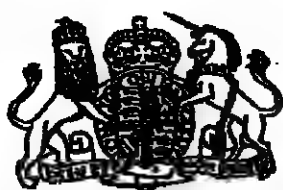
Yours faithfully,
JOHN NORTH,
The Old Rectory,
Loxhore, Barnstaple, Devon,
May 8.

Unnatural selection

From Dr Celina Fox

Sir, British Airways is certainly happy to follow national educational trends. On a flight from Boston last week, the steward announced that the film in First Class would be *Hamlet*, in Club World *Green Card* and in World Traveller (the current euphemism for Economy) *Kindergarten Cop*.

Yours faithfully,
CELINA FOX,
40 Warwick Avenue, W9,
May 14.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
May 20: By command of The Queen, Lieutenant-General Sir John Richards (Marshall of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon His Excellency Mr Ahmed Abdo Raghi at 41 South Street, W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to His Excellency upon relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Republic of Yemen to the Court of St James's.

The Queen was represented by Field Marshal Sir Roland Gifford at the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Hon Mrs Wright which was held in St Andrew's Church, Heddington, Wiltshire, today.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Brian McGrath.

The Duke of York this afternoon visited the Chelsea Flower Show of the Royal Horticultural Society in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

Mrs Jonathan Mathias, Captain Neil Blair, RN and Captain Alexander Baillie-Hamilton were in attendance.

The Duchess of York attended the Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of the Hon Mrs Wright which was held in St Andrew's Church, Heddington, Wiltshire.

The Princess Royal today visited Lancashire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Lancashire (the Lord Clydesdale, KT).

Her Royal Highness opened the new regional Distribution Centre at Bellfield and afterwards opened the newly rebuilt Main Grandstand at Hamilton Park Race Course.

Mrs William Nunnally was in attendance.

This evening The Princess Royal, President, gave the Children's Fund, attended the Chelsea Flower Show Gala Preview in the Gardens of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea.

The Countess of Lichfield was in attendance.

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OBITUARIES

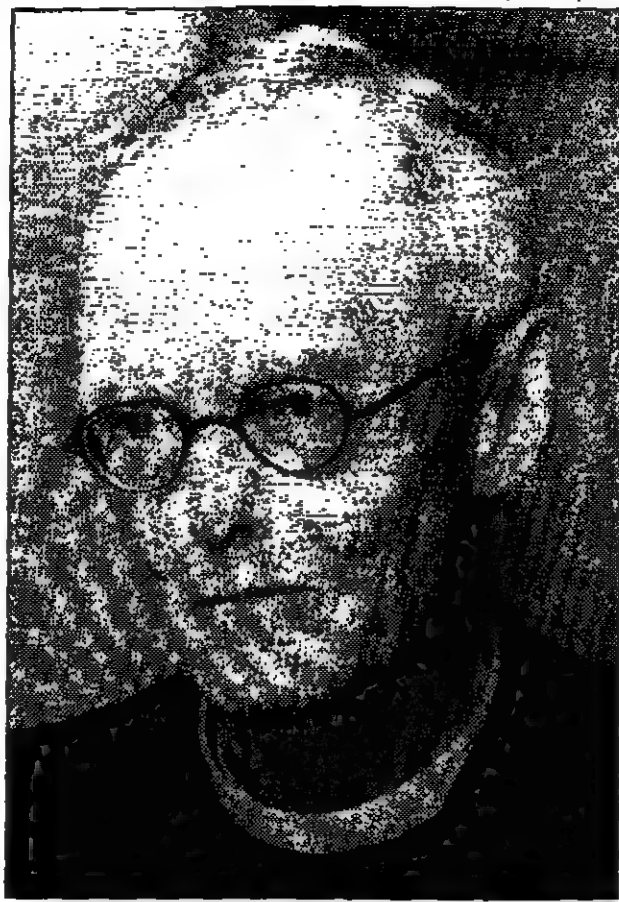
THE REV WILLIAM FLEMINGTON

The Rev William F. Flemington, former Principal of Wesley House, Cambridge, died on May 14 aged 89. He was born on May 24, 1901.

THE Rev W. F. Flemington was an outstanding biblical teacher yet his reputation, outside the Methodist Church of which he was a minister, and the University of Cambridge which was his home for over 50 years, rested upon a single publication.

He was the son of a Wesleyan Methodist minister, and educated in Liverpool and at Jesus College, Oxford. He was accepted for the Wesleyan ministry in 1924 and trained at the newly opened Wesley House, Cambridge, taking a first in the theological tripos. In 1926 he was appointed assistant tutor at Handsworth College, Birmingham, a post which not only gave him valuable teaching experience but brought him as colleague two internationally outstanding biblical scholars of the day, W. F. Howard and W. F. Lofthouse.

After circuit appointments in Stourbridge and West Bromwich, he was called back by the Methodist Conference to Cambridge in 1937 to serve as tutor of Wesley House under the principalship of R. Newton Flew. At Cambridge his teaching abilities were given full play and he exercised a formative influence upon generations of Methodist ministers including some who have since become scholars of international standing. His principal subject was the New Testament, which included for most of his students an introduction to koine Greek, but in the older Cam-



bridge fashion he was also expected to supervise studies across the field in preparation for the theological tripos. His patience, meticulous attention to detail, and reverence for his subject marked all his work, and the results, as evidenced by sustained examination results, soon brought him recognition and respect in the university.

These qualities became more widely evident with the publication of *The New Tes-*

tament Doctrine of Baptism in 1948, which quickly established itself as the standard work on the subject, and earned him the Cambridge degree of bachelor of divinity. Wide reading, careful attention to the biblical text, sound linguistic scholarship, a broad grasp of the issues and balanced judgement are apparent throughout.

The scholarship, however, was but one aspect of the Methodist minister, ordained

not only to teach but to preach, administer the sacraments and care for souls. Flemington never lost sight of the wider calling, in himself or in those he prepared for ministry. He excelled in homiletic classes, using the scholarship in the service of the gospel, and was himself a moving and effective preacher. His pastoral care was evident in the long-continued custom of writing to all past students on every change of appointment.

In 1955 Newton Flew retired and Flemington became principal of Wesley House. The same scrupulous attention to detail and cautious judgement was brought to the new responsibilities. It was not an easy time. He was conservative by temperament and the radical winds of the 1960s, which affected theological students as much as any, seemed destructive of many of the traditional values he held dear. The burdens of those years took a toll from which he never fully recovered. Those who knew and respected him always regretted that administrative duties and subsequent weariness, allied to the high standards he demanded of himself, prevented him from publishing the wealth of material which was evident in oral teaching. Flemington had the strengths and shortcomings of the perfectionist, and was extremely shy. But he had gentleness, dignity, loyalty and an instant rapport with children. He was widely read, especially in 19th-century literature, and loved walking.

In 1930 he married Phyllis Doddrell and is survived by her and his daughter and son.

RONALD LACEY

Ronald Lacey, actor, died of a heart attack on May 15 aged 55. He was born on September 28, 1935.

DESPITE an all-too-short career dogged by medical and marital and emotional problems, Ronald Lacey will be remembered as a resourceful screen villain and the definitive television Dylan Thomas.

After a drama-school training at LAMDA, he made his name at the Royal Court in 1962 as the aptly-named Smiler in Arnold Wesker's *Chips With Everything* which later transferred to Broadway, and it was that fitted smile, extending more often into a leer, which would become the hallmark of his more sinister roles in later years, where he developed the manner of a latter-day Peter Lorre.

But a severe abdominal



operation early in his twenties had removed much of his intestines and left Lacey with a crucial lack of stage energy, which meant that he had to focus more and more on cinema and television, even there playing flashy villains

and co-men among the

supporting cast while very

soon able to tackle a major

leading role. In such long-

running series as *Porridge* and

Whistle Hoppers he gave more

endearing comic perfor-

mances, but he only rarely

returned to the stage, most

notably playing all four vil-

lains in a 1981 Raymond

Chandler parody at the Lyric

Hammerstein called *Private*

Dick.

On the wide screen,

Lacey was probably best

known for his villainous Nazi

in Steven Spielberg's *Raiders*

of the *Lost Ark* (1981), which

led to a series of similar

"heavy" in such inter-

national pictures as *Firefox*, *Sahara*

and *Magnum*. He also

twice portrayed Sir Winston

Churchill, once for television

in *The Great Escape* and once

for the wide-screen Russian

movie *Stalingrad* (1988).

An adventurous and often

unexpectedly comic actor, eager

to escape the type-casting of

evil thugs, Lacey twice

made films in drag in *Princess*

Alice and in *Invitation to a Wed-*

dning with Gielgud and

Richardson. He gave his two

most memorable perfor-

mances in television bio-

graphies, first as the reformer

Charles James Fox in *Fight*

Against Slavery (1975) and

then as Dylan Thomas in a

role with which he so iden-

tified himself that he later

toured for several months in

his own stage version, *Dylan*

and *Liz*.

He was twice married, once

in 1959, to Mela White, and

again in 1972 to Joanne Baker

who pre-deceased him. He

leaves two sons, both actors,

and one daughter.

Exotic colours put fire in Chelsea

By ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Chelsea Flower Show provides an annual opportunity of savouring exotic plants from around the world, especially from the tropics and sub-tropics.

This year's show, which opens today in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, seems to have even more exotic colour than usual in the grand marquee, from both British and overseas exhibitors.

There are gaudy red and yellow heliconias or lobster claws, and red and pink ginger lilies (alpinias), from the Barbados Horticultural Society, of Christchurch, Barbados, and the Eastern Caribbean States, West Indies. The latter are also showing tropical fruits, such as star fruits and mangoes, that are becoming more familiar in Britain.

Protea, whose flowers with masses of prominent stamens resemble colourful pin-cushions, are featured by Glenellen Armistage, of Harare, Zimbabwe. They are grown for export as cut flowers and include orange *P. scaberrima*, indigenous to Zimbabwe, flame-orange 'Sunrise' and coral-pink *P. linearis*.

Rainforest bromeliads, bizarre and colourful relations of the pineapple, are featured by several exhibitors, including Tropical Rainforest, of Leeds, West Yorkshire, which is displaying silver, grey and green air plants (atmospheric tillandsias) on driftwood.

The tropical-foliage plants, including bromeliads, on the stand of Wild Court Rainforest, of Newbury, Berkshire, are spectacular, especially the aloegas with huge shield-shaped silver-veined leaves.

Even the Devon and Cornwall area of the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies has rainforest as a theme, with lianas helping to create atmosphere. This green and white design features a new style of flower arranging based on vertical and horizontal lines. It copies nature, using plant material as it grows naturally, not contorting it to contrived shapes. The style is very economical on flowers and foliage.

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Garden plants, both hardy permanent kinds and tender ones for summer display, abound in the marquee. Cannington College, of Bridgewater, Somerset, have an exhibit of sun loving half-hardy perennials, creating a Mediterranean atmosphere. These are increasing in popularity as people are finding they are as easy to grow as, for example, dahlias. The daisy flowered perennials are particularly popular, including osteospermums, of which Cannington holds the national collection. Some have been raised by the college, including purple 'Cannington Katrine' and white and purple 'Cannington John'. Argemone-themes are also being more widely planted. Of the numerous varieties on display, 'Rollison's Red' is particularly eye-catching.

The vast display from the City of Birmingham, based on summer bedding plants, reminds one of past Chelsea shows, when many exhibits were on the grand and lavish scale. The plants are massed into colour groups and the centrepiece is a tiered carpet-bedding scheme using traditional foliage plants like antemanthers and pyrethrum.

There are many exhibits, though, demonstrating what the "ordinary" gardener can easily achieve. The Alpine Garden Society, of Pershore, Hereford and Worcester, has a rock-garden exhibit planted with readily available plants and which illustrates economical use of rock. The central feature is a screen planted with drifts of South African rhododendrons, with starry flowers in pink, red and white, and the vertical crevices of a rock outcrop are filled with sempervivums, saxifages and sedums.

Hanging baskets represent a popular way of growing plants and are featured by several exhibitors; indeed, some very imaginative ideas are to be seen. Blooms of Bretingham, Diss, Norfolk, are using hardy perennials in baskets, such as purple-leaved *Heuchera* 'Palace Purple',

Fragaria 'Pink Panda' (a pink-flowered ornamental strawberry) and the well-loved lady's mantle, *Alchemilla mollis*.

The Pepper Harrow Trust, of Godalming, Surrey, is featuring "something different" for wall baskets, including hardy annuals like canary creeper, a climber with yellow flowers (it trails when grown in baskets), and blue and pink echiums.

The Garden Centre Association, of Reading, Berkshire, shows hanging baskets prepared by garden centres. Plants used include tomato 'Tumbler', a dwarf kind specially bred for baskets, and thymes which form a gold and grey ball.

There are roses in abundance. The Royal Horticultural Society, of Chiswick, Greater London, is showing award-winning varieties from the international trials, including the 1991 rose of the year, 'Melody Maker', a light red cluster-flowered variety. David Austin Roses, of Albrighton, Shropshire, has new varieties of English roses, including intensely fragrant apricot-coloured 'Evelyn'.

A "stream" of blue grape hyacinths (muscaris) "flows" through the centre of the mass display of bulbs from Van Tubergen, of Diss, Norfolk.

Among all this colour the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Wisley, Surrey, has created a cool green oasis of hardy ferns, recognising the centenary of the British Fernological (fern) Society.

The private view for Royal Horticultural Society members is today and tomorrow. The show is open to the public on Thursday, from 8am to 8pm, and Friday, from 8am to 5pm, but the RHS says that tickets have nearly sold out. Thursday afternoon tickets (4-8pm) will be available at the gate. Some full-day tickets for Thursday and Friday are available by telephone booking through Keith Prowse (telephone 071 735 6199), but not at the gate.

Diary, page 14

MUHAMMED ABDEL-WAHAB

Muhammed Abdel-Wahab, popular Egyptian composer, singer and accompanist, died on May 4 aged 88. He was born in Cairo in 1903.

MUHAMMED Abdel-Wahab was the Arab world's foremost musician for the greater part of this century and dominated the development of Arabic music during a crucial period when it came into close contact with its Western counterpart and began to be organised along modern lines. In the latter part of the century Abdel-Wahab was a nationally revered figure in Egypt and, with some 1,800 compositions to his credit, a wealthy man.

Born into a poor family in Cairo, Abdel-Wahab had his apprenticeship in music as a boy singer at religious festivals, after which he began to earn money in the capital's nightclubs. During one such session, his talent was noticed by the poet Ahmad Shawqi (1869-1931), who conspired with the chief police commissioner so that he might be saved for more formal work. But the young Abdel-Wahab fled to Alexandria to continue his night club work saying that he was too poor to study. Nevertheless his long association with Shawqi began. The poet took him under his wing and paid for his musical education.

Apert from his facility to produce a couple of new releases a month, perhaps the

secret of Abdel-Wahab's success was his readiness to change his style to suit new times and generations. Thus he wrote songs in the classic mode of Arabic music, he wrote songs for romantic films, and he experimented with jazz.

One of the enduring musical co-operations of his life was with the singer Umm Kulthum, which began apparently at the request of President Gamal Abdel-Nasser, at the end of 1963. Cabinet meetings are said to have been sometimes interrupted so that ministers could listen to their recitals on the radio. The first song Abdel-Wahab wrote for Umm Kulthum, *Inta Amri* (You are my life), is still featured in popular charts today. He also wrote for, among others, the well-loved Lebanese singer Fairuz.

Although Abdel-Wahab's own film career was short—he participated in only half-a-dozen musical comedies—he remained a singer in his own right, often accompanying himself on the *ud*, the short-necked Arabic lute. He was a favourite of Arab rulers and princes and he wrote a number of ballads praising the achievements of Egypt under Nasser and Sadat. His other compositions included the Egyptian national anthem.

Last year in London, musicians and poets from many parts of the Arab world gathered at the Albert Hall to pay him homage.

BARBARA CONWAY

Barbara Anne Conway, investigative financial journalist, died on May 5 aged 39. She was born on January 30, 1952.

BARBARA Conway was one of the few journalists to have had a direct influence on the shape of financial legislation. Her persistent exposure of shady business practice was a leading element in the campaign for greater protection for small investors. That campaign culminated in the 1986 Financial Services Act, which she helped to administer as an employee of its principal agency, the Securities and Investments Board.

Conway was a dedicated Jew, and after the last Barmy College in north London she worked as a kibbutz in Israel. There she made contributions to the *Jerusalem Post*, which marked her first steps in journalism.

On returning to London, she worked for a stockbroker, but journalism drew her to the now defunct weekly *Investors Guardian*. In 1973 Conway moved to the *Investors Chronicle*, where she impressed Andreas Whitman Smith, then the IC's editor and now the founder editor of *The Independent*. Two years later

she began her first expose column.

In 1977 Whitman Smith was appointed City editor of *The Daily Telegraph*. Conway followed and soon began her Scripps column in similar vein. Her sense of humour was revealed in her adoption of a watchdog, which she named Fang. During this period Conway wrote two books, *Investor Power* and *The Pity Business*, an account of the Salem marine fraud case.

She stayed at the *Telegraph* until 1986 apart from a brief spell at the *Daily Mail*. In March of that year she became the first head-of-information at the newly created Securities and Investments Board and in the early months wrote valuable pamphlets aimed at clarifying the law for the small investor. But these efforts did not prove as fulfilling as journalistic investigations so in 1988 Conway joined the BBC's new business and economics unit. Later she fell victim to cancer but, in characteristically robust style, wrote freelance articles criticising the lack of information given to sufferers.

Conway's main relaxation was films and theatre. She was unmarried.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.J. Knight and Miss M.M.L. Beckenham

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr and the late Mrs R.D. Knight, of Kenley, Surrey, and Mary-Clair, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Beckenham, of Seaton, Devon.

Mr J.R. Lane and Miss K.L. Biddle

The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr and Mrs Basil Lane, of Byram, North Yorkshire, and Katrina, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Jean-Claude Biddle, of Gresside, South Yorkshire.

Mr P.A.D. Lloyd and Miss S.M. Atkinson

17

Blue Remembered Hills, the title of the Dennis Potter play, is a quotation from A.E. Houseman and not Dylan Thomas as stated in the Channel 4 preview for Sunday

2.00 Donahue. Phil Donahue asks why some people are gay and others are not
3.00 60 Minutes. American news and current affairs magazine
4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 Coming of Age. American comedy series (r)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00

- 1.30 **Newsnight** with Peter Snow. Includes a report from James Robbins on the Zulu rampage in Kagiso township.
- 1.15 **The Late Show**. Arts and media magazine.
- 1.55 **Weather**.

1.00 Sportnight. Steve Fidler introduces highlights of England's opening encounter against the USSR in the triangular football tournament with Argentina.

Alexander Gibson performs Thomas Wilson (Passacaglia Theme)—first broadcast; Elgar (Variations on an Original Theme, Op. 36)

Weather 12:35 **Shipping**
Forecast

IMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GRILLIAN MAXEY

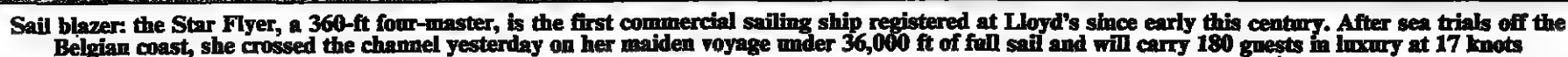
Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society

11.00	Classical: <i>Verdian: Two</i>	March	
	plays Chopin (Two Nocturnes, Op 37)		F
11.30	News		F
11.35	Composers of the Week: Beethoven (A Rose Is Sing: Symphonic Variations) (A 12: Team: Caves		6
			8
			1

SEQUENCES: Radio 1: 1053kHz/265m; 1089kHz/275m; FM 97.5/89.8. Radio 2: 98.02. Radio 3: 1215kHz/247m; FM 90.024. Radio 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 94.6. Radio 5: 693kHz/433m; 903kHz/330m. World Service: MW 474/638m. Jazz FM 102.2. LBC: 1152kHz/221m; FM 97.3. Capital: 104.9kHz/194m; FM 95.8. GLR: 1495kHz/206m; FM 94.9; Melody FM 104.9.

Compiled by PETER DEAR and GILLIAN MAXEY
(CHOICE) PETER WAYMARR, RANDI CURTIS, KENNETH (CNS) BIR

WHALE AND DOLPHIN
CONSERVATION SOCIETY 



Soviet citizens free travel law passed

proved the bill in principle by a majority of 320 to 37 with 32 abstentions, came after a weekend of intensive lobbying and committee work which produced the later implementation date. Parliament also gave the government two weeks to set a timetable for the stage-by-stage introduction of the law, as passport, customs and transport facilities were improved.

President Bush described it as a "hopeful sign" yesterday the move to give most citizens the right to travel abroad, but said that it was too soon to decide on the favoured nation status.



By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

There have been no cutbacks in the Soviet destroyer and frigate construction programmes yet in Britain there were planned cuts in the navy of 25 per cent. It was hoped that cutbacks in the US navy might reduce the numbers of Soviet submarines. "Almost the language of CND made truth," Captain Sharpe said.

● *Jane's Fighting Ships*, 1981-82, p. 125.
● *Jane's Defence Data*, E125.

WHO does Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-general, sound like? You have only to hear those plummy tones to know he reminds you of someone. But who? Sketchwriters have compared him with a snooty-wite waiter, a posh undertaker, the headmaster of a minor preparatory school in Hampshire... all close, but none in the bulls-eye.

Yesterday the answer came as Sir Patrick was saying how deeply he regretted the way Tony Banks (Lab, Newham NW) had phrased his enquiry about the Guildford pub bombings. You could almost hear the Attorney's braces twanging as he spoke. A colleague leaned over to me. "Pathé News!"

unsentimental and, very slightly gruff voice. She crups her hair and wears shoes and opinions sensible and fine. She is well-belited and does not make jokes. Not a minister after all Miss Widdelcombe is a BBC World Service female continuity announcer from the fifties. She looks like they sounded, so to speak. As a small boy I would try to imagine the reality behind those voices, eventually forming a mental picture. I have known Miss Widdelcombe all my life. "Responsibility" for these matters, she was saying, "is in the hands of the secretary of state for education . . ." Did I just imagine her to continue "and then at 1500 hours Greenwich mean time, after the world news and

Setting the stage for failure? As the world awaits the first performance of Sir Harrison Birtwistle's opera *Gawain*, Paul Griffiths dwells on the chequered history of new opera since the war — triumphs for Britten and Stravinsky, a slide to obscurity for much of the rest — and Richard Morrison eavesdrops on final preparations for the Royal Opera's staging of Sir Harrison's three-hour epic

Gaelic charm: Now is the time for Britons to buy into the French property market. Diana Wideman offers tips on how to leap the Channel — and avoid the pitfalls

[illegible]

C London (within N & S Circles)
M-ways/roads M4-M1
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23
M-ways/roads M23-M4
M25 London Orbital only
National
National motorways
West Country
Wales
Midlands
East Anglia
North-east England
North-east England
Scotland
Northern Ireland

	Spain	2,495	Bank North/Surrey	701
	Burma	2,445	Sellia	702
Australia S	2,285		Greater London	703
Belgium Fr	21.75		Dorset, Hants & IOW	704
Belgium Fr	63.90	55.00	Devon & Cornwall	705
Belgium Fr	1.52	1.52	Wiltshire, Gloucester & Avon	706
Denmark S	1.16	1.15	Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	707
Finland Mark	3.08	2.95	Beds/Herts & Essex	708
France Fr	10.47	9.82	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	709
Germany Dm	3.10	2.95	West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	710
Italy Lira	30.00	31.00	Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	711
Hong Kong & Malaya P	1.91	1.90	Central Midlands	712
India Rupee	231.00	231.00	East Midlands	713
Japan Yen	253.00	253.00	Lincoln & Humberside	714
Netherlands Gld	10.36	10.36	Cheshire & Merseyside	715
Norway Kr	12.05	11.38	Gwynedd & Chwyd	716
Portugal Escudo	200.00	200.00	N W England	717
South Africa Rand	5.55	4.15	W & S Yorks & Dales	718
Spain Ptas	191.25	173.25	N E England	719
Sweden Krona	10.15	10.15	Cumbria & Lakes District	720
Switzerland Fr	2.625	2.485	S W Scotland	721
Turkey Lira	7500.00	6500.00	W Central Scotland	722
Yugoslavia Dm	51.00	32.00	Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	723

Rates for small denomination bank notes only
 (For details of Sterling Bank Plc. Different rates
 apply to travellers' cheques)

	North/Surrey	701
	Sellia	702
	Greater London	703
	Dorset, Hants & IOW	704
	Devon & Cornwall	705
	Wiltshire, Gloucester & Avon	706
	Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon	707
	Beds/Herts & Essex	708
	Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	709
	West Mid & Sh. Glam & Gwent	710
	Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	711
	Central Midlands	712
	East Midlands	713
	Lincoln & Humberside	714
	Cheshire & Merseyside	715
	Gwynedd & Chwyd	716
	N W England	717
	W & S Yorks & Dales	718
	N E England	719
	Cumbria & Lakes District	720
	S W Scotland	721
	W Central Scotland	722
	Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	723
	E Central Scotland	724
	N W & E Highlands	725
	N W Scotland	726
	Cattiness, Orkney & Shetland	727

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- SPORT 34,36-40

Receivers could go in at Spurs

TOTTENHAM Hotspur could be in the hands of administrative receivers appointed by its bankers when it plays in the European Cup Winners' Cup next season.

The club was plunged deeper into financial difficulties because of the serious injury suffered by Paul Gascoigne during Saturday's FA Cup Final, prompting Lazio, the Italian club, to withdraw from a proposed £8.5 million transfer.

Lazio visit, page 40

ICI shares fall 14p

Shares in ICI dipped 14p to £12.33 as the stock market, after last week's excitement over the acquisition by Hanson of a 2.82 per cent stake, took the more measured view that a bid was not imminent.

The ICI board are considering a defence plan, to include disposals already presaged in its report and accounts along with possible other restructuring, and some observers believe Hanson has been hoping to force the company into a premature move.

Comment, page 23

Prowling slides

Prowling, the builder, said the housing market in the South and Southeast was the most difficult since the second world war. The company reported taxable profits down from £16.1 million to £7.5 million for the year to end February. Earnings fell from 16.6p a share to 6.9p. The total dividend is maintained at 5p a share, with a final of 3.3p.

Tempos, page 23

Sedgwick steady

The weakness of the dollar at the start of the year held Sedgwick, the insurance broker, to a £100,000 increase in pre-tax profits to £42.6 million in the first three months of the year.

Tempos, page 23

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7215 (+0.0020)
German mark 2.9739 (-0.0018)
Exchange index 91.7 (-0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1927.3 (+1.1)
FT-SE 100 2468.6 (+12.7)
New York Dow Jones 2895.80 (+9.17)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 25523.03 (-178.91)

MAJOR CHANGES

RISER: 133 1/2p (+40p)
SA Brakes: 82 1/2p (+20p)
AB Food: 50 1/2p (+10p)
Barlow Rand: 70 1/2p (+15p)
Broken Hill: 56 1/2p (+10p)
News Corp: 38 1/2p (+8p)
Thomson Corp: 25 1/2p (+30p)
LASMO: 34 1/2p (+11p)
Shell: 51 1/2p (+11p)
BAT: 67 1/2p (+15p)
Rothmans 'B': 85 1/2p (+17p)
Black: 22 1/2p (+7p)
FALL: 35p (-10p)
First Tech: 22 1/2p (-45p)
Harvey & Thompson: 24 1/2p (-5p)
ASW: 24 1/2p (-5p)
Unigile: 27 1/2p (-5p)
Manna Davis: 25 1/2p (-10p)
Laporte: 56 1/2p (-3p)
Courtauld: 35 1/2p (-10p)
British Vils: 22 1/2p (-10p)
Closing Prices...Page 25

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 12%
3-month interbank 11 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 11 1/2%
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 5 1/2%
3-month Treasury Bill 5 1/2%
30-year bonds 9 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£: \$1.7215
£: DM1.7280
£: Sfr1.4580
£: FF10.0708
£: Yen23.74
£: Ecu31.7
ECU £0.691754
ECU £1.49800

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$353.90 pm \$355.00
close \$355.00-355.50 (£207.10-207.60)
New York: Close \$355.25-356.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jun) \$19.10 bbl (\$19.10)
Denotes latest trading price

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.1 April 1987-100

Fall in retail sales dispels hopes of spring revival

By ANATOLE KALETSKY
ECONOMICS EDITOR

RETAIL sales fell by 3.5 per cent last month, reversing the 3.7 jump in March. Although the March retail sales gain was known to be partly attributable to the timing of Easter and the VAT increase in the Budget, some economists and government officials had hoped that it might also indicate the revival of confidence picked up in many industrial and consumer surveys in the aftermath of the Gulf war.

Yesterday's statistics dispelled these hopes and raised the possibility that the

economy might suffer another drop in the summer as expectations of a spring revival were disappointed.

The index of sales volumes returned to 118.5, the same level as February, suggesting that the retail economy remained mired at the low point it hit last autumn, with no immediate improvement in sight.

The poor sales figures, which showed even more weakness than the City's average expectation of a 3.2 per cent fall, provoked renewed calls for monetary easing. The Labour party would step up its campaign for a cut in interest rates and for

a policy to take Britain out of recession, Gordon Brown, the shadow industry spokesman, said.

But Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, did not give any hint that a cut in interest rates was in the offing and insisted that the government was getting its economic strategy "broadly right". Inflation would be down to 4 per cent by the end of the year and this would gradually revive business and consumer confidence, he said.

The Chancellor suggested that housing activity, rather than retail sales, would be the key to a consumer-led revival in the

economy. Both he and Jon Foulds, chairman of the Halifax Building Society, forecast that housing sales would gradually pick up during the year.

The Retail Consortium said that the housing market was "still very flat" and that a significant cut in interest rates was "needed and needed now - not to achieve buoyancy but to start a recovery".

A few City economists interpreted the sales figures more bullishly, noting that the average for the past three months was 1.1 per cent above the previous three-month average. Chris Dillow, UK economist at

Nomura Research, said: "You could say this figure's consistent with a consumer-led recovery. There is certainly no reason for the government to regard this as an opportunity for a base rate cut."

But other economists noted that the apparently favorable three-month comparison was due entirely to the freakishly high March sales figure. In volume terms, April's retail sales were 2.4 per cent lower than a year earlier. In value, they were up by 5 per cent.

Comment, page 23

Shareholders' funds slump to £139m

Brent Walker makes £600m writedowns

By MARTIN WALLER

BRENT Walker Group, George Walker's embattled leisure conglomerate, wrote off about £500 million from its property interests as part of a £600 million package of writedowns revealed yesterday. This left shareholders' funds in the company standing at just £139 million at the end of December, against £829 million stated at the end of 1989.

The group suffered an attributable loss of £246.8 million last year, after provisions and write-offs totalling £226 million on the profit and loss account because of the falling value of its assets, against a 1989 profit of £119.9 million.

But Mr Walker, who has already stepped down as chairman, has denied there has been any pressure on him to blow out entirely. The group's continued survival depends on its 60-odd creditor banks accepting a business plan including substantial disposals to be put to a selected steering committee today.

"As of this moment, nobody but the press has asked me to relinquish my role as chief executive. This plan sees me in that role," Mr Walker said.

The City and Brent Walker's numerous creditors have been braced to expect dreadful results from the group for 1990, along with a severely

damaged balance sheet. But the actual news was worse than many had expected.

Operating profits stood up reasonably well, at £122.2 million against £112.9 million, helped by the acquisition of the William Hill betting chain on December 13, 1989, which boosted earnings from betting services from just £5.8 million to £57.1 million.

But interest payable soared £72 million to £116.1 million as net bank borrowings rose to £1,224 million. The group took a £38.1 million exceptional loss from property revaluations and £14 million of costs associated with its continuing attempts to re-finance its debts.

Pre-tax losses, therefore, came out at £29 million, against profits of £72.7 million last time. Brent Walker was forced to take a further £201.7 million extraordinary, below-the-line loss from provisions on businesses already disposed of or set to be sold, £97.9 million of it a writedown against property values. By business sector, the worst loss comes from the media side, not previously regarded by observers as a core activity but which weighed in with a loss of £115.1 million.

There is no final dividend, making the total for the year equal to the interim payment of 5p. Last year, a total of 15p was paid. The high interest costs and the group is paying mean that although it continues to be profitable at

the operating level, it will make an overall loss this year as well, the board says.

Brent Walker has refused to give details of which assets particular writedowns and provisions relate to, on the grounds that this would reveal information to be included in the business plan which should go to its banks first. "We have one hand tied behind our backs," Lord Kindersley, the chairman, admitted. "This is the crucial point that the steering committee will consider."

The group has, however, set its face against going into administrative receivership despite reports that some of the smaller creditor banks are keen on the idea. John Leach, the finance director, said: "We haven't spent three months putting together a viable business plan to 'favour' administration as the way forward."

Nicholas Ward, the managing director, said: "I don't see that it would be in the interests of anybody involved in this business for that to happen, least of all the lenders."

The board believes the steering committee of the banks will take a short while to examine the rescue plan before passing it on to the other banks. It is likely to be some weeks before any firm proposals are put before shareholders. At present, it would take a majority of creditor banks to put the group into administration.

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Reluctant about writedown and provision details: Lord Kindersley (left) and George Walker yesterday

ABF rises 12% but faces tough outlook

By COLIN CAMPBELL

ASSOCIATED British Foods, the milling and baking concern that paid £880 million for British Sugar in January, indicates that lower net cash balances and squeezed manufacturing margins will make life tough in the short term.

Pre-tax profits for the 12 months ended March 30, at £317.4 million (£283.8 million), generally pleased analysts, and shares rose by 10p to 510p.

ABF declared a second interim dividend of 8.5p (7.7p), making 12.2p (11p) for the year.

The group is changing its year end and will next report for an 18-month period to September 14.

The results represent a 12 per cent profits improvement though there remains heavy pressure on food manufacturing margins. Stronger overseas profits, however, more than compensated for weaker British interests.

Group cash holdings, which last balance sheet date topped the £1 billion mark, have since eased to £280 million net following payment for British Sugar, and lower interest earnings and reduced cash balances will be additional factors influencing group fortunes.

ABF has written off £100.9 million against its 23.6 per cent stake in Berisford International - the group from which it bought British Sugar - as an extraordinary item, taken below the profits line.

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Shake-up at British Steel

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU

MARTIN Llowarch, chief executive of British Steel, will resign at the end of June "for personal reasons", the company said.

Mr Llowarch's resignation will herald a complete change of leadership at Europe's most successful steel company, after Sir Robert Scholey, the 69-year old chairman, recently indicated that he might retire in 1992. Mr Llowarch was previously tipped to succeed Sir Robert.

Mr Llowarch, who is 55, will be replaced by Brian Moffat, currently managing director in charge of finance. All directors of British Steel, except Sir Robert, are on service contracts, terminable

by the company with three years' notice. Mr Llowarch joined the company in 1968, became a director in 1984, and chief executive in 1986, two years before the company was privatised.

British Steel said yesterday: "His decision is for personal reasons and has been accepted with great regret." A company spokesman refused to comment on Mr Llowarch's future career and the terms of a financial settlement. In the company's 1989-90 annual report, the salary of the highest paid director, excluding Sir Robert, was listed at between £240,000 and £245,000, which usually refers to the chief executive's remuneration. Sir Robert was listed as earning £308,451 in the previous

financial year. His contract expires on October 8. Mr Moffat, 52, a chartered accountant by training, joined British Steel in 1968 as a deputy controller, and in 1973 became a director for the associated products division. In 1987 he was appointed a director of the board. He is believed to favour a policy of progressive dividend growth.

It was under the leadership of Sir Robert and Mr Llowarch over the last five years that British Steel grew into Europe's most successful steel company, after a number of large scale and controversial restructuring programmes, including the most recent decision to cut 800 jobs at the steelworks in Scunthorpe, Humberside.

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Old hands can bring new profits

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

A TEAM of earnest American researchers will today show it is more profitable to employ older people. Appropriately, they will present their evidence in Miami Beach, Florida, the retirement capital of the Western world. In the plush surroundings of the Fontainebleau Hilton, only feet from the ranks of aged, wrinkled, wealthy sun-shoppers, hard figures will be presented on the bottom-line performance of older employees (those over 55).

Britain, like many other advanced Western countries, has an ageing population. By the turn of the century the number of people in the forty, fifty, and sixty-something generations and beyond is projected to rise six times as fast as the younger crowd. Japan and the United States have similar problems.

Americans Being Americans, this phenomenon is being studied and then some. The Commonwealth Fund, a charitable foundation with \$320 million

to spend, is funding the Americans Over 55 at Work Program. It has studied people working in American hotels, marketing insurance in Connecticut - and Britons selling DIY equipment in Macclesfield. The three-year study will today release some preliminary results at the annual meeting of America's National Council on the Ageing.

"Until now," says Thomas W. Maloney, senior vice-president of the Commonwealth Fund, "corporations have had to make policies about older workers based on hunches. These studies for the first time provide numerical results from real companies that have hired older workers. The bottom line speaks for itself: the case studies prove that hiring older people makes good business sense."

This comes as no surprise to B&Q's DIY store in Macclesfield which opened in October 1989, staffed entirely by workers aged 50 and over. Both the company and its customers are more than satisfied. But the American study paints in some startling statistics.

Comparing it with five other B&Q stores with an average employee age of 27, against Macclesfield's 57, profitability at Macclesfield is 18 per cent higher, staff turnover nearly six times less and the absenteeism record 39 per cent better.

"Leakage," a retailers' euphemism for staff theft, or as the report puts it, "the difference between stock expected in store and stock actually in store", is 59 per cent less in the older workers' store.

The report draws no conclusion from another finding: that heavy lifting has not been a problem: "Two can, more safely, lift what one youngster can."

Day's Inns of America, the world's third-largest hotel chain, found that as well as better turnover and absenteeism rates (and lower starting wages) for post-50 workers, the average training and recruiting costs were \$618, compared to \$1,742 for younger employees. Health insurance costs were also lower.

Jim Hodgkinson, B&Q's chief executive, said: "We've set a corporate goal for older worker employment of 10 per cent by the end of 1991."

Shortfall at Wallace Smith may be £100m

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE liquidator in charge of winding up Wallace Smith Trust has confirmed there are tens of millions of pounds of the bank's assets still unaccounted for, but hopes that some may be recovered from overseas bank accounts.

KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock, provisional liquidator, said the shortfall was substantial. Reports suggest that up to £100 million may be missing.

The liquidators are searching through records of Wallace's overseas transactions in the hope of tracing foreign accounts that may hold some of the missing millions.

Wallace Smith was ordered to stop trading and forced into provisional liquidation by the Bank of England last month. Peat Marwick has since been liquidating its securities and foreign exchange holdings.

Wallace has up to 30 principal creditors, mostly subsidiaries of foreign banks in London. All face substantial losses on their dealings with the bank. Peat Marwick hopes to produce a statement of affairs for the bank soon and to report to the creditors next month.

Duncan Smith, Wallace's chairman and managing director, has been remanded on £250,000 bail facing fraudulent trading charges.

Leave sought to exclude some evidence

Spens and Seelig to appeal

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO City figures, allegedly involved in the Guinness affair, were yesterday allowed to seek leave to appeal to the House of Lords over their attempt to exclude certain evidence in the case against them.

Lord Spens and Roger Seelig, merchant bankers, say transcripts of their interviews with trade department inspectors investigating Guinness's £2.7 billion takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986 should be excluded from their trial, which is due to start this year.

The Court of Appeal rejected their claim last month, but Lord Justice Watkins, sitting with Mr Justice Allott and Mr Justice Cresswell yesterday, said that the case raised points of law of general public importance that were fit for consideration by the law lords.

Lord Spens, formerly of the Henry Aschbacher, the banker, and Mr Seelig, who was employed by Morgan Grenfell, adviser to Guinness at the time of the takeover, face conspiracy and false accounting charges.

They allege that a suspect's "right to silence", which would normally apply under the provisions of the 1984 Police and Criminal Evidence Act, was bypassed by the inspectors in their case.

The second Guinness trial is now unlikely to begin before the autumn.



Point of law: Lord Spens, left, and Roger Seelig allege the right to silence was ignored

Covenants breached at First Technology

By MARTIN BARROW

FIRST Technology disclosed that it was in talks with its bankers after breaching covenants because of trading and extraordinary losses incurred in the year to end April.

Shares in the automotive and security systems concern slipped from 45p to 29p, before recovering to 35p, after the company issued a warning of annual losses before tax of £2.9 million and extraordinary losses of £5.5 million.

Pre-tax losses of £2.4 million were attributed to Anglo Swedish Consulting Service, a design service for Volvo.

In expectation of a major new project at ASCS, excess capacity was maintained for most of the year. Although work on the project began in January, it was at levels significantly lower than anticipated. At the end of last month, Volvo served notice that work would cease altogether.

The episode resulted in pre-tax losses of around £2.4 million with closure provisions and asset write-offs of a total of £3.9 million.

Additional exceptional costs were incurred by two American subsidiaries, Humatics Inc and Alderson Research Laboratories, suppliers of crash dummies.

These two operations have been integrated on a single site at an exceptional cost of £1.1 million.

Fred Westlake, chairman, said that although borrowings had not risen materially since the half-year, the company must pay a deferred consideration of around £3.3 million to the vendors of Falcon Systems, which was acquired in 1989.

First Technology shares have fallen from 50p in just 18 months. Last October they plunged 17p to 11p in a single day when the company issued a profit warning.

In January, the company reported interim pre-tax losses of £836,000, compared with profits of £3.05 million in the first half of the previous year and cut the dividend from 3p a share to 1p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Boddington queries Devenish forecast

BODDINGTON, which has made a £122.3 million contested bid for JA Devenish, has again questioned the validity of a profit forecast promised by the West Country brewer as part of its defence.

Denis Cassidy, chairman of Boddington, claims that Devenish cannot issue an accurate forecast ahead of the key summer period because of the seasonal nature of its business. He said that such a document would be "not so much a profit forecast as a weather forecast". In a letter to shareholders of Devenish, he also suggested that their company's net asset value was closer to 200p a share than the 272p claimed by Devenish. Boddington's offer is ten of its shares for every seven in Devenish, with a cash alternative of 210p a share.

Goldsmiths falls to £1.9m

PRE-TAX profits at Goldsmiths Group fell to £1.9 million (£4.06 million) on turnover of £41.5 million (£39.6 million) for the year ended March 2. The watch and jewellery chain's interest charge was £1.83 million (£1.95 million). Year end gearing eased from 96 per cent to 92 per cent. A final dividend of 1.5p makes 3p (1.4p) for the year. The shares fell 3p to 49p.

Davis loses £1m on sale

GODFREY Davis, the motor dealer and industrial services company, will incur an extraordinary loss of £1.3 million against book value on the sale of three Ford dealerships to a management-owned company for £6.69 million. The dealerships, in west London and Weymouth, Hertfordshire, made an aggregate pre-tax profit of £1.12 million last year (£2.31 million).

Thorn talks in Japan

THORN EMI, the entertainment and electronics group, is holding talks with Hamamatsu Photonics of Japan over the future of its electron tube business. According to Thorn, the talks could lead to a number of outcomes, including the sale of the business to Hamamatsu. Based at Ruislip in west London, the electron tube division employs 220 people and had sales of £7 million in the year to March last year.

The possible sale forms part of a strategy that appears to be reducing Thorn's involvement in lighting and electronics and increasing its exposure to entertainment. In February, Thorn successfully bid for majority control of Thames Television, the London ITV contractor.

Ferromet loses ground

FERROMET Group, the former Cloghan Gold Mines group and now a scrap metal dealer whose shares are quoted at 24p, reported pre-tax profits of £624,318 for last year, compared with £1.38 million for the previous nine months. The company blames difficult trading conditions. Ferromet has declared a maiden dividend of 0.05p, payable on June 28.

Kerry placing to raise £10m

KERRY Group, the Irish dairy and food products group, is raising £11 million (£10 million) through a placing of 6 million ordinary shares. Proceeds from the placing, which will be made by J & E Davy, the company's stockbroker, will be used initially to reduce borrowings and give the group "more flexibility to look at a number of possible acquisitions".

Youghal loss grows

PRE-TAX losses at Youghal Carpets, the Irish carpets group, deepened from £1.26 million (£1.1 million) to £2.64 million in the year to end December, on turnover down from £666.4 million to £553.2 million. There was an exceptional loss of £401,000, relating to the reorganisation of British plants.

Interest payments rose to £2.18 million (£1.88 million). The loss per share increased from 2.85p to 6.09p. Once again, there is no dividend. The shares lost 1p to 7p.

Investors back Bond restructure

FROM BRIAN BUCHANAN
IN SYDNEY

BOND Corporation shareholders have backed the company's planned scheme of arrangements. Only a block of shareholders who hold 8 per cent of the stock opposed the plan at a meeting in Perth.

Under the restructuring, ordinary shareholders, including Alan Bond's Daihold Investments, will have their stake cut to 10 per cent in the restructured company.

But a meeting of partially secured creditors was deferred.

The backing came four days after Swiss bondholders approved the scheme. The proposal now rests with a group of German banks, which account for most of Bond Corp's market-denominated public debt. The scheme depends on 75 per cent of each of the four classes of creditors approving the restructuring, which involves a debt moratorium and the conversion of debt to equity.

Systems Reliability to sell division

By OUR CITY STAFF

SYSTEMS Reliability Holdings, the computer services group, has confirmed the disposal of its communications and maintenance divisions to Strongfield for £12 million.

Strongfield was created to effect the purchase by a management team. SRH will continue an association with Strongfield and will subscribe up to £2.5 million for between 20 per cent and 25 per cent of the ordinary shares and between 25 per cent and 31 per cent of the preference shares.

The communications and maintenance divisions made a combined pre-tax profit of £2.16 million in the year to end December, on turnover of £30.9 million.

SRH will use the released funds for increased investment in its core maintenance services division. The deal will result in a £3 million increase in net assets and will reduce net debt by £8.5 million.

Pre-tax profits fell from £7.86 million to £7.53 million in the year to end December, in spite of turnover ahead from £134.6 million to £183.1 million.

Earnings per share fell from 12.76p to 7.4p. The final dividend is maintained at 1.5p, making an improved total of 2.5p (2.25p) for the year.

Operating profits climbed to £10.1 million (£9.22 million), but interest payments jumped from £1.36 million to £2.57 million.

The sale of Corporate Computers, with closure costs on discounted businesses, resulted in an extraordinary profit of £5.41 million.

Robert Evans, SRH's chairman, said first-quarter sales for the maintenance services division are "most encouraging, especially the levels of new business in the UK market".

He said the group had moved into the end user markets. SRH plans to change its name to Enterprise Computer Holdings, and the financial year end is to be changed to March 31.

Rand Mines to write off £89m

By COLIN CAMPBELL, MINING CORRESPONDENT

RAND Mines, the South African mining group, is to write off £430 million (£89 million) against its platinum interests. The move will reduce the group's net asset value by £29 to £66 a share.

Rand says both its gold and platinum divisions are giving cause for concern. Reorganisation talks involving the platinum operations are at an advanced stage. The interim dividend is cut

from 120 cents to 100 cents. Rand says there will be a decline in attributable year-end profits and a substantially reduced dividend for the year. The total could be cut by 30 per cent from last year's 560 cents a share.

Interim attributable profits to end March were £104.3 million, against a restated £96.6 million. In the year to end September, profits now restated were £223.1 million.

Halls passes final dividend

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A FALL in demand for its products because of the squeeze in consumer spending has forced Halls Homes & Gardens, the conservatory and greenhouse manufacturer, to pass its final dividend after going into the red.

The company suffered a pre-tax loss of £2.68 million in the year to end December, compared with a profit of £281,000 last time. The figures were dragged down by a £1.04 million exceptional reorganisation charge.

Halls recently called on

shareholders for £3.2 million through a one-for-three rights issue at 10p in order to save the group. A further £1.5 million was raised by a preference share issue to National Westminster Bank, which converted £1.5 million of debt into equity.

There was an operating loss of £1.64 million (£1.12 million profit), but interest payments rose to £1.04 million (£837,000). Borrowings stand at about £3 million, although the group hopes they will be significantly reduced by the

end of the year. Turnover edged to £27.1 million (£26.4 million).

There was a 21.2p loss per share, against earnings of 2.2p previously. The company has decided that the postponed interim dividend of 1p will now be paid on July 1, but there is no final dividend, making 1p (6p) for the year.

Halls said it was unlikely that any dividends would be proposed in respect of the current year. The USM-quoted shares were unchanged at 7p.

Recession hits life policy sales

By SARA MCCONNELL

SALES of life assurance and pension policies fell sharply in the first quarter of this year, hit by the continuing recession, the Association of British Insurers said yesterday.

Worst affected was single premium life business, which dropped 16 per cent from £1.18 billion in the first quarter of last year to £999 million. The ABI said single premium guaranteed income bonds had become less attractive because of falling interest rates.

Total annual premium business was down 10 per cent to £753 million. This was partly due to a fall off in endowment mortgage sales in a slack housing market. Annual premium

life business fell 9 per cent to £491 million and annual premium personal pension business fell 12 per cent to £262 million. Single premium personal pension business was up 9 per cent, after a rise in lump sum investment from company pension schemes.

Mike Jones, ABI chief executive, said: "The insurance industry is having to overcome the effects of rising unemployment and reduced consumer spending power. We are also having to compete with the direct encouragement and tax incentives given to more short-term investments such as tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas)."

Adsteam returns

ADELAIDE Steamship shares had their heaviest trading day of the year after the Australian Stock Exchange ended a suspension of nearly three weeks.

The exchange also allowed the relisting of the Adsteam Associates David Jones and Tooth & Co. A total of 6.7 million Adsteam shares changed hands.

The demand came because the shares gave entry to the

impending float of National Foods, Industrial Equity's food arm. Prices for Adsteam scrip fell from almost the start of trading, plunging to a day's low of 8 cents before closing at 9 cents, down 3 cents from the pre-suspension level.

David Jones opened at 29 cents, a drop of 14 cents from its pre-suspension price. The shares closed at 30 cents. Tooth closed at its day's low of 38 cents.

Britain and EC still in dispute over coal aid

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE European Commission and the British government have not yet been able to resolve their disagreement over a £100 million structural aid programme to help Britain's coal mining communities, according to Bruce Millan, the European commissioner for regional policy.

Speaking at a press briefing in London, Mr Millan, a former Scottish secretary, said that the Commission still maintained the reservations that led it to block a payment last month to which Britain would normally be entitled.

It was the first time the Commission had taken such action. The main disagreement is about whether the British government should supplement the funds with its



Millan: reservations

own resources. There is also disagreement about lack of transparency as the Commission makes it difficult to assess where the funds would eventually be employed.

The grant comes as part of Europe's £200 million Rechar project, aimed at improving the economic activities and environment in some of Eu-

rope's depressed mining areas. As a result of the large number of redundancies in British coal mining industry, Britain usually takes the lion's share of the Rechar entitlements.

The European Commission and National Westminster Bank have launched a guide to help British businessmen cope with the confusing array of European grants and loan schemes.

The 32-page guide, entitled *Finance from Europe*, contains a complete list and details of the various schemes currently under offer, including structural funds, funds for business development, education and training, and research and development.

The guide is available from the European Commission, London Office, 8 Storey's Gate, London, SW1P 3AT, or at any branch of NatWest bank.

FINANCIAL NEWS FROM BANK OF SCOTLAND

Bank of Scotland Annual Results

	1991	1990
OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE BAD DEBT PROVISIONS	£339.4m	£305.4m
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	£134.1m	£193.5m
TOTAL CAPITAL RESOURCES	£1,707m	£1,538m
TOTAL ASSETS	£22,095m	£18,394m
EARNINGS PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	9.5p	14.3p
DIVIDEND PER ORDINARY STOCK UNIT	5.1p	4.55p

- Operating Profit continuing to grow – up 11 per cent on 1990.
- Profit before taxation down to £134.1 million as a result of increased bad debt provisions.
- Net ordinary dividend for the year increased by 12 per cent to 5.1 pence.
- Cost : income ratio – a satisfactory 54.6 per cent.
- Current trends and improving margins give confidence for a Rights Issue to raise an additional £194 million of Tier 1 equity capital.



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A £600m hole in Brent Walker

COMMENT

Lord Kindersley, Brent Walker's chairman, has unconsciously echoed the oldest saw in banking by pointing out, quite reasonably, that his creditor banks with most to lose are those least keen to see their client go into administration. Ahead of a decision by the banks on the rescue plan, which goes to a selection of them today, Brent Walker's long-awaited figures, tell only half the story. But they do leave the observer agog to read the next chapter.

Of a total of £600 million in write-downs and provisions, more than £200 million relate to extraordinary losses on businesses up for sale or to be sold. The leisure group offers no details, so it is unclear which losses attach to which assets. But creditors awaiting a fuller picture might focus on one.

Media interests, according to Brent Walker's 1989 report and accounts, provided just £13.4 million of the group's £500 million-plus turnover. They do not even feature as a separate entry in the 1990 figures.

Yet this division accounts for £115 million of these extra-

ordinary losses. The cost of cleaning up for disposal a business that was only ever a chitch of small, unrelated activities, virtually swallowed last year's group operating profits of £122 million. Truly, something extraordinary has been happening in the media business in recent years.

The £200 million in extraordinary losses, half from property write-downs, adds to £24 million taken above the line on property revaluations. But the worst damage to the balance sheet comes from a £377 million hit from property revaluations, turning reserves almost £37 million negative.

Shareholders' funds slump from £829 million to just £139 million, which some might regard as a slim margin of error, even for a group with Brent Walker's proven Houdini-like qualities. Only the bankers, at whose whim half the business might be up for sale, can assess

whether more can be gained from pushing it over the brink into administration or from nursing it along until asset values recover.

Ordinary shareholders, as ever on the outside looking in on such mayhem, need no reminding of the shares' performance over the past year. The market valued them at 32p, up 3p, last night, which seems generous.

Latent heat

The heated debate over the exact timing of the next interest rate cut, a debate more significant in terms of attitude than substance, is turning every economic statistic into an argument for one side or the other. This week, the cutters are likely to have it.

The relapse in retail sales in

April suggests, on the surface, that there has been no net recovery in consumer confidence. That is too dire a view. The seasonal adjustment did not allow for a Budget-beating Easter being in March, devaluing the message. The CBI's distribution survey, which implied a small net improvement since the Gulf war nadir, is a better guide.

Today's money supply figures should show M0 up little more than 1 per cent over 12 months and the three-month average of M4 lending right back to the days before the credit boom started in 1986-7. Money supply provides no bar to lower rates.

None of this week's recession-torn figures, which include output, trade and another CBI survey, will prove, however, either that the recession is worsening, or that recovery is

starting. As the cautious party rightly asserts, only time will tell whether the economy is responding progressively to the 3 point fall in interest rates since October. The exaggerated heat might easily be dispelled by a harmless half-point cut on Friday.

No option

While ICI pretends not to be unsettled or affrighted at the apparition of Lord Hanson, the chemicals multinational is seething beneath the surface. The stock market has started playing down the possibility of a bid, but if ICI depends on the financial climate, regulators or the City's responsible attitude, it would be foolhardy.

Sir Denys Henderson is far too canny for that and is already planning his defences. The GEC gambit, which ICI's advisors Warburg wheeled out when Lord

Weinstock's group seemed to face a similar potential threat by the Metson consortium, is the favourite.

Making partnership deals with potential break-up buyers undermined the threat, demonstrated firm action and made a bid less rewarding and more complex. Lord Weinstock started with the advantage, however, that he had been already been discussing many such deals in the industry over the previous years.

ICI has had a distaste for joint ventures in important businesses, being relatively much bigger than GEC, though it has dipped its toes in the water several times recently. Being pressured into joint ventures might, therefore, make the group act out a classic case of short-termism under threat.

The crux of any restructuring, however, must lie in the pharmaceutical division, where ICI is relatively small in the world league and which is undervalued by being within the chemicals group. To resolve this, ICI would either have to sell outright or to merge its operations into a quoted vehicle. Inaction is not an option.

Lilley meets his model for innovative success

PETER Lilley's choice of Warwick University as the platform for a speech on innovation today could hardly be more appropriate.

Last month, Mr Lilley's plans on industrial policy for the Nineties were attacked as being utterly uninnovative by Labour and many business leaders.

The trade and industry secretary's host today, Professor Kumar Bhattacharyya, aged 50, could hardly provide a better model for innovation — and success.

A decade ago, Warwick's department of manufacturing systems engineering had a limited number of assets: Professor Bhattacharyya, a desk and a chair.

Now, the 140-strong department, called Warwick Manufacturing Institute, is awaiting completion of a £1.6 million new building. Last year, Warwick Manufacturing generated £23 million of industrial activities, more than 90 per cent of which were funded by company contributions.

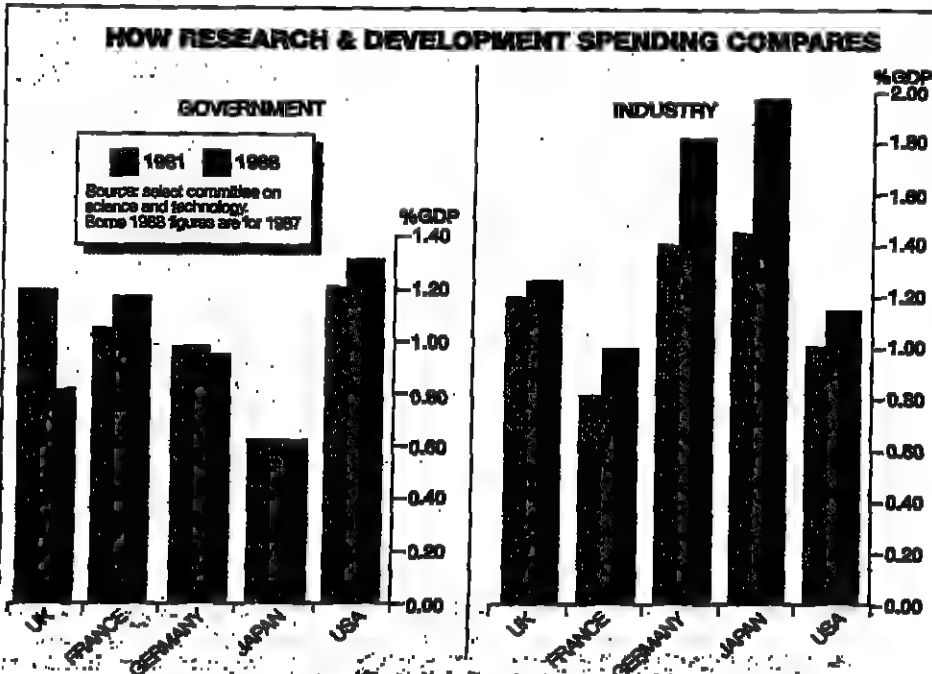
But these Professor Bhattacharyya, the son of an Indian chemistry professor, is no ordinary university academic. Few academics would probably have garnered direct praise from Margaret Thatcher, who last year applauded his "pioneering spirit".

Few have a chauffeur. Few wear monogrammed shirts. Professor Bhattacharyya's department has its own hotel on campus, servicing the 3,000 industrial managers who attend his courses each year.

His success prompts occasional envy, however. "Well, I know he's good at what he does," says one former Warwick academic. "But he's not really an academic, is he?"

A current colleague says Professor Bhattacharyya tends to ride roughshod over the university's academic systems in pursuit of his goals. The colleague adds that the professor is convinced that money for innovations will be no object, provided the product is right.

At the lunch that follows Mr Lilley's speech today, representatives of some of the



companies with which Professor Bhattacharyya has worked — Rover, British Aerospace, GKN, Lucas, Jaguar and Short Brothers — will be there to attest to his thirst for innovation.

His link with Rover has been particularly close. His Advanced Technology Centre at the university, funded by Rover, has effectively operated as an out-house re-

search arm of the company, working on inventories, information technology, factory communications, chassis development, reinforced polymer plastics and engine management systems. Work in parts of the centre is so commercially sensitive that even Professor Bhattacharyya himself is said not to be allowed inside.

A voluble, expansive communicator, Professor Bhattacharyya's successes have led to many academic opponents to see him as arrogant. He is deeply opinionated and dismisses vast swathes of British industry as badly man-

aging. Business consultants and management schools especially are all thrown out as chaff, wholly inferior to the Bhattacharyya method.

What that method is precisely is not quite clear from the professor's own whirlwind delivery. It is a mixture of training people, of technology, of planning and of quality with, at the heart of it, a relatively simple emphasis on

getting the product right. "We will never be a stable manufacturing country," he says, "until and unless we have got a trained workforce, a culture dependent on common sense and a product that you know you can sell."

Britain can innovate, he believes; Britain can come up with good products. Why is it then that the Japanese or the Germans can take over British factories and sell the products that British firms cannot?

He believes that at the core of Britain's manufacturing problems, are its poor products, not costs, or the unions. "We haven't got a product

base," he says. Inevitably, that comes back to innovation. Mr Lilley will today say how important innovation is to the government and how much it is spending on it.

Gordon Brown, Labour's industry spokesman, who will be talking at today's annual conference in Bournemouth of the MSF general technical union — at the same time as Mr Lilley is talking at Warwick — dismissed the government's commitment, however, saying that spending on innovation was being cut.

With an industrial policy where the very absence of fresh ideas is welcomed by the political and business right, innovation is seen by Mr Lilley as one of his prime areas to score industrial points.

Professor Bhattacharyya's successes at Warwick provide the trade and industry secretary with a good environment to do so. But the current recession is now taking its toll of innovation, good ideas, people and companies.

Against such a sombre backdrop, innovation may be little more than a bejewelled, out-of-reach ambition for many companies.

PHILIP BASSETT
Industrial Editor

ABF has taste of British Sugar

ASSOCIATED British Foods is going to find life tough not only as a master baker but also as a master banker from here on.

The group's cash pile, which topped £1.1 billion in March last year — and on which net interest income of £128.5 million (£124.5 million) was earned in the 12 months ended March 30 1991 — is now down to around £880 million following the cash and borrowing outlay of £880 million to buy British Sugar.

The ultimate benefits of buying British Sugar could take some years to filter through, though by joining Garry Weston's ABF family British Sugar could open up new business horizons.

Meanwhile, pre-tax profits for the 12 months ended March, at £317.4 million against £283.8 million on turnover of £3.13 billion (£2.77 billion) were won against a background of stiff competition that is going to get stiffer.

ABF next reports for an 18-month period to September 14, and though a fuller contribution from British Sugar (acquired from January 2) will help, continued strength must come from overseas operations and from non-manufacturing interests if much headway year-on-year is to be expected.

In the 12-month period, ABF saw still stronger overseas earnings held back by £3.5 million because of currency movements, and ABF charged £12 million (£6.9 million previously) above the

TEMPUS

profits line for closing three bakeries and associated restructuring costs.

There was a write-off, below the line, of £100.9 million against the group's 23.6 per cent stake in Berisford International — the continued holding of which must be questionable on any Berisford share price improvement.

Consumer downtrading in such fundamental items as bread leaves analysts forecasting September period-end profits of between £325 million and £330 million, against a pre-tax £305 million, to put the shares at 510p on 10.5 times earnings.

They have performed well over the past 12 months, but have run out of breath in recent weeks, though on balance remain a defensive hold. The 60 per cent stake held through the Weston family, however, rules out takeover excitement.

Prowing

AS a housebuilder heavily committed to the depressed South and Southeast, Prowing is right to be pleased with its performance last year, even though taxable profits fell from £16.1 million to £7.5 million. Prowing's policy is to preserve margins, even at the expense of volume, saving its treasured land bank for better days.

For investors, the problem is that Prowing's qualities are already well recognised by the market. The shares are tightly

TEMPUS

held and there has been no shortage of buyers, even when interest rates were at a peak.

There has never been any doubt that Prowing has what it takes to survive what Terry Roydon, the chief executive, describes as the worst trading conditions since the second world war. In addition, time may show that the company was right not to chase volume, refusing to pay inflated prices for land further north as the housing boom migrated away from the South.

But hopes of a speedy recovery now that interest rates are falling are premature. After their experience of the past two years, home owners in the South are not rushing out to increase their mortgages, particularly when unemployment continues to rise among white collar workers in the region.

Prowing's assessment of the market is that volumes will increase but prices will be static in the first instance. Thus, Peter Jensen, an analyst of Flemings Research, predicts that the earnings recovery will be delayed for another year and forecasts profits of £7.5 million again this year. A maintained dividend of 5p, with a 3.3p final, is covered just 1.4 times, which suggests the company is also taking a cautious view.

With gearing of 36 per cent and an eight-year land bank of cheaply acquired plots, Prowing's future is secure. The shares, priced at 178p, trade

on a multiple of almost 24 times prospective earnings, despite a modest yield of 4 per cent, and are fully valued.

Sedgwick

WAITING for an upturn in the insurance market has been, like supporting English cricket, a joyless pursuit. Few know this better than Sedgwick, the insurance broker, whose results have limped along for the past three years due to low premium rates.

At a glance, the company's first-quarter figures appear to be more of the same. Pre-tax profits rose just £100,000 to £42.6 million after a 6 per cent fall in revenue to £169 million.

These lacklustre figures, however, conceal much activity behind the scenes. Almost two-thirds of Sedgwick's revenue is dollar-denominated, so the group's profits were hit by the currency's weakness. At constant exchange rates, profits would have risen 11 per cent to £47.2 million.

The increase is the result of Sedgwick's £21 million reorganisation. The company has shed 500 jobs since the start of the year, and is planning to cut another 100. As a result, group expenses fell 2 per cent at constant exchange rates.

However, Sedgwick's revenue will remain depressed since American insurance rates show little sign of improvement. The shares, at 244p, would sell at 20 times earnings if profits climb to £80 million this year. Investors must wait until 1992 for the chance of a decent innings.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Johnson takes his time

CHRISTOPHER Johnson, chief economic adviser at Lloyds Bank since the mid-Seventies, clearly values his time. Two days after announcing that he is to retire at the end of June, he has taken on a new role — as British adviser to the Monetary Union of Europe. "It will be a part-time job," says Johnson, who makes room for singing and windsurfing in between his other duties. Five years ago, at a meeting in Antwerp — and faced with blank stares from the audience — he offered a silver coin to the first person to ask a question. "We immediately had about ten," he recalls. His book, *The Economy Under Mrs Thatcher*, is due out in August.

Just like that

ABOUT 160 guests are due tonight at the joint launch of a Mayfair office block by

Speyhawk and Imry, the property developers. Perhaps fearful that no one will turn up — these are hard times, after all — they have persuaded Wayne Dobson, the magician, to perform some tricks. "Perhaps he will conjure up some business," says Kean Hind, a director of Imry. Maybe he can also do something about the address, 20 North Audley



"Beats me how you lose and they lose"

Street — a stone's throw from the former offices of South Audley Management, a raid on which triggered the Polly Peck debacle.

High note

THE financial markets never sleep. Last week, Brian Worsley, assistant treasurer for capital markets at Barclays, put the finishing touches to a \$500 million US bond launch. The deal was finally settled and priced late on Thursday evening — in the stalls at Covent Garden during the second interval of *Carmen*. "He was careful not to disturb the patrons," says Barclays.

Gazza's boots

SIMON Dryan, an electricals market-maker at Lehman Brothers, is now the proud owner of a pair of boots once worn — or so it is claimed — by Paul Gascoigne. Dryan, a keen football fan, paid £1,200 for the boots — not to help pay the interest on Tottenham Hotspur's £18 million overdraft

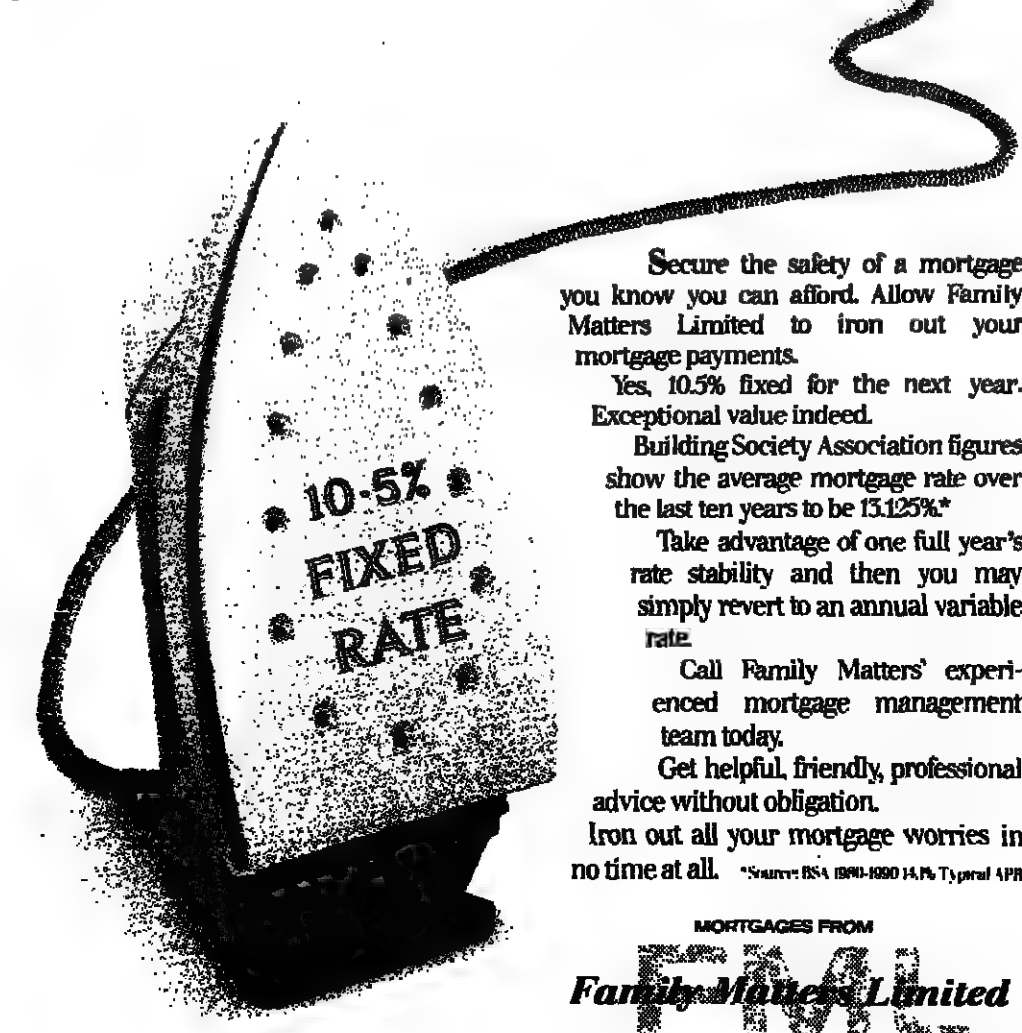
but to raise funds for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. "I'm thinking of bringing them in to the office," says Dryan who has timed his acquisition well, in the light of Gascoigne's injury. "They could be the last pair of boots he ever wears."

Royal run-in

THE Prince of Wales's collision with a rival player during a weekend polo game was more than just a passing clash. For Hubert Perrodo, the Frenchman who lay "dazed" on the pitch for several minutes, is not only chairman and main shareholder of Kelt Energy — a stock that has had its ups and downs of late — but has also "run into" the Prince before. Last year, he broke his arm in the same place as Prince Charles and the pair later compared injuries. Two weeks ago, Perrodo sold his private drilling interests in France for a \$170 million — making his bruises easier to bear.

JON ASHWORTH

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Ship	Line	Company	Date		Crew	Tons	No.	P.O.
			Mo.	Day	Origin			
102	10	Am. Can.	10	10	141	141	141	141
103	11	Am. Can.	11	11	142	142	142	142
104	12	Am. Can.	12	12	143	143	143	143
105	13	Am. Can.	13	13	144	144	144	144
106	14	Am. Can.	14	14	145	145	145	145
107	15	Am. Can.	15	15	146	146	146	146
108	16	Am. Can.	16	16	147	147	147	147
109	17	Am. Can.	17	17	148	148	148	148
110	18	Am. Can.	18	18	149	149	149	149
111	19	Am. Can.	19	19	150	150	150	150
112	20	Am. Can.	20	20	151	151	151	151
113	21	Am. Can.	21	21	152	152	152	152
114	22	Am. Can.	22	22	153	153	153	153
115	23	Am. Can.	23	23	154	154	154	154
116	24	Am. Can.	24	24	155	155	155	155
117	25	Am. Can.	25	25	156	156	156	156
118	26	Am. Can.	26	26	157	157	157	157
119	27	Am. Can.	27	27	158	158	158	158
120	28	Am. Can.	28	28	159	159	159	159
121	29	Am. Can.	29	29	160	160	160	160
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127	35	Am. Can.	35	35	166	166	166	166
128	36	Am. Can.	36	36	167	167	167	167
129	37	Am. Can.	37	37	168	168	168	168
130	38	Am. Can.	38	38	169	169	169	169
131	39	Am. Can.	39	39	170	170	170	170
132	40	Am. Can.	40	40	171	171	171	171
133	41	Am. Can.	41	41	172	172	172	172
134	42	Am. Can.	42	42	173	173	173	173
135	43	Am. Can.	43	43	174	174	174	174
136	44	Am. Can.	44	44	175	175	175	175
137	45	Am. Can.	45	45	176	176	176	176
138	46	Am. Can.	46	46	177	177	177	177
139	47	Am. Can.	47	47	178	178	178	178
140	48	Am. Can.	48	48	179	179	179	179
141	49	Am. Can.	49	49	180	180	180	180
142	50	Am. Can.	50	50	181	181	181	181
143	51	Am. Can.	51	51	182	182	182	182
144	52	Am. Can.	52	52	183	183	183	183
145	53	Am. Can.	53	53	184	184	184	184
146	54	Am. Can.	54	54	185	185	185	185
147	55	Am. Can.	55	55	186	186	186	186
148	56	Am. Can.	56	56	187	187	187	187
149	57	Am. Can.	57	57	188	188	188	188
150	58	Am. Can.	58	58	189	189	189	189
151	59	Am. Can.	59	59	190	190	190	190
152	60	Am. Can.	60	60	191	191	191	191
153	61	Am. Can.	61	61	192	192	192	192
154	62</							

COCOA				LONDON FOX				LONDON OIL REPORTS (1982-1983) - London & Lagos			
OFFICE				SUGAR (POSB)				With the majority of the contract on holiday, the season ends on a quiet note			
May	367-595	Jan	357-534	C Cane				CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB)			
Jun	313-912	Feb	395-893	Aug	171-4-70.8			Brent Physical	18.80	n/y	
Jul	313-912	Mar	395-893	Sep	172-0-70.0			Brent 15 day (Jun)	18.10	-1.0	
Aug	313-912	Apr	395-893	Oct	172-0-70.0			Brent 15 day (Jul)	18.80		
Sep	375-875	May	395-893	Nov	172-0-70.0			WT Tenses Intermediate (Jun)	21.25	+0.05	
Oct	705-708	Jun	392-827	Dec	172-0-70.0			WT Tenses Intermediate (Jul)	21.25	+0.05	
Nov	705-708	Jul	392-827	Jan	180-0-74.0			WT Tenses Intermediate (Aug)	21.25	+0.05	
Dec	705-708	Aug	392-827	Feb	180-0-74.0						
Vol 1968		Vol 1917		Vol 476							
LONDON GRAIN FUTURES				H-PRO SOYBA				PRODUCE (Chicago \$/bush)			
WHEAT				Cane				Spot Crd Eur (Europe) (month delivery)			
BARLEY				Cane				Premium Jan	15	Std: 245 (n/y)	Other: 250 (n/y)
May	130-30	Jan	121-30	Jun	123-0-31.0			Geacil Esc	180 (-1-)		184 (n/y)
Jun	137-60	Feb	107-30	Jul	123-0-32.0			Geacil Esc	180 (-1-)		184 (n/y)
Jul	111-40	Mar	117-30	Aug	123-0-32.0			Nov Esc	181 (n/y)		184 (n/y)
Aug	114-40	Apr	114-30	Sep	123-0-32.0			Nov Esc	181 (n/y)		184 (n/y)
Sep	117-70	May	117-30	Oct	123-0-32.0			3 1/2 Fuel Oil	69 (n/y)		69 (n/y)
Oct	117-70	Jun	117-30	Nov	123-0-32.0			Naphtia	215 (-1-)		215 (-1-)
Vol 70		Vol 70		Vol 70							
LONDON POTATO FUTURES				LONDON MEAT				RUBBER			
Saus (R/m)				Cattle				GWN Freight Potatoes Dry (300) (n/y)			
Oct	74.0	Open:	80.0	May	102			Jun	175.0-75.0	Oct	182.0-81.00
Nov	74.0	Close:	80.0	Jun	102			Jul	175.0-74.0	Nov	180.00 SLR
Dec	80.0	Vol:	80.0	Jul	102			Aug	177.00 SLD	Dec	180.00-84.50
								Sep	180.00-75.00	Vol	2292
RUBBER & LIVERPOOL COMMODITIES				LONDON MEAT				CURRENT			
Average futures prices at representative trade fairs				PORK				19.05-19.15			
Saus (R/m)				Cattle				19.05-19.00			
Oct	74.0	Open:	80.0	May	102						
Nov	74.0	Close:	80.0	Jun	102						
Dec	80.0	Vol:	80.0	Jul	102						
RUBBER & LIVERPOOL COMMODITIES				LONDON MEAT				CURRENT			
Average futures prices at representative trade fairs				PORK				19.05-19.15			
Saus (R/m)				Cattle				19.05-19.00			

هكذا من الأمل

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

VE	1981		Company	Price		Days	Yrs
	High	Low		Bid	Offer		
14	12	10	Citibank	115 1/8	19	-	-
144	03	03	Chubb	108	145	+10	6.8
128	114	114	Equity	115	115	+0	1.7
415	405	405	Interstate	513	517 1/2	+4 1/2	20.8
82	78	78	First Commerce	44	44	-	-
2	2	2	Union	62	-	-	1.5
145	128	128	W. Western	115	120	-	5.5
234	126	126	Northrup	234	234	+0	-
178	168	168	Security B & S	181	181	+0	-
155	145	145	First Energy	86	-	-	-
384	317	317	LASADA	337	344	+7	11.3
185	180	180	Do Units	170	180	-	34.8

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1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	2036	2037	2038	2039	2040	2041	2042	2043	2044	2045	2046	2047	2048	2049	2050	2051	2052	2053	2054	2055	2056	2057	2058	2059	2060	2061	2062	2063	2064	2065	2066	2067	2068	2069	2070	2071	2072	2073	2074	2075	2076	2077	2078	2079	2080	2081	2082	2083	2084	2085	2086	2087	2088	2089	2090	2091	2092	2093	2094	2095	2096	2097	2098	2099	2100	2101	2102	2103	2104	2105	2106	2107	2108	2109	2110	2111	2112	2113	2114	2115	2116	2117	2118	2119	2120	2121	2122	2123	2124	2125	2126	2127	2128	2129	2130	2131	2132	2133	2134	2135	2136	2137	2138	2139	2140	2141	2142	2143	2144	2145	2146	2147	2148	2149	2150	2151	2152	2153	2154	2155	2156	2157	2158	2159	2160	2161	2162	2163	2164	2165	2166	2167	2168	2169	2170	2171	2172	2173	2174	2175	2176	2177	2178	2179	2180	2181	2182	2183	2184	2185	2186	2187	2188	2189	2190	2191	2192	2193	2194	2195	2196	2197	2198	2199	2200	2201	2202	2203	2204	2205	2206	2207	2208	2209	2210	2211	2212	2213	2214	2215	2216	2217	2218	2219	2220	2221	2222	2223	2224	2225	2226	2227	2228	2229	2230	2231	2232	2233	2234	2235	2236	2237	2238	2239	2240	2241	2242	2243	2244	2245	2246	2247	2248	2249	2250	2251	2252	2253	2254	2255	2256	2257	2258	2259	2260	2261	2262	2263	2264	2265	2266	2267	2268	2269	2270	2271	2272	2273	2274	2275	2276	2277	2278	2279	2280	2281	2282	2283	2284	2285	2286	2287	2288	2289	2290	2291	2292	2293	2294	2295	2296	2297	2298	2299	2300	2301	2302	2303	2304	2305	2306	2307	2308	2309	2310	2311	2312	2313	2314	2315	2316	2317	2318	2319	2320	2321	2322	2323	2324	2325	2326	2327	2328	2329	2330	2331	2332	2333	2334	2335	2336	2337	2338	2339	2340	2341	2342	2343	2344	2345	2346	2347	2348	2349	2350	2351	2352	2353	2354	2355	2356	2357	2358	2359	2360	2361	2362	2363	2364	2365	2366	2367	2368	2369	2370	2371	2372	2373	2374	2375	2376	2377	2378	2379	2380	2381	2382	2383	2384	2385	2386	2387	2388	2389	2390	2391	2392	2393	2394	2395	2396	2397	2398	2399	2400	2401	2402	2403</
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230	230	Gr Portland	230	235	+4	12.5	8.1
237	219	Graycast	315	318	+3	8.8	2.4
32	54	HK Lead	59	62	-	-	-
94		Unalloyed Pb	71				

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12/26	12/26	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3
12/27	12/27	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4
12/28	12/28	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5
12/29	12/29	12/30	12/31	1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6
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share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend c Inter payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend a yield exclude a special payment h Pre-merger figures Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

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Ronald Bartle sums up the convention that changes extradition rules and, below, two barristers foresee problems for justice in Britain



British' crimes in Europe: after the Heysel stadium violence Liverpool fans had to be extradited to answer serious charges in a Belgian court

Quick journey to justice

The European convention on extradition came into effect in Britain last week, allowing simpler and speedier extradition of criminals between this country and 19 other countries that are party to the convention. It could also mean a big increase in the cases coming before Bow Street, in London, the country's extradition court.

Until recently, extradition arrangements have been inadequate. Many states have had no treaties, and others have relied on ad hoc agreements. Even where treaties are in force, the legal process may be cumbersome and protracted.

The urgent need for greater international cooperation has been highlighted by the huge increase in international drug trafficking, and subsequent laundering of money from drug sales, and worldwide fraud and terrorism. The British law was embodied in the Extradition Act 1989. This consolidates the law and simplifies the definition of an extradition crime as one punishable in Britain with 12 months' jail or more. The convention retains the broad principles that the requesting state must satisfy the court, chiefly a Bow Street stipendiary magistrate, that there is a treaty between that state and Britain, that there is a prima-facie evidence of a crime committed by the fugitive within the requesting state's jurisdiction and that the crime is an offence under the treaty and by the law of both countries.

The defendant has various defences. He can claim the offence is political, and he can apply for habeas corpus to have a point decided by the High Court. The final decision rests with the home secretary.

In the most radical and controversial departure from British law in the convention, the requirement that the requesting state must establish a prima-facie case has been abolished.

Although the request must be supported by an original or authenticated copy of conviction and sentence or arrest warrant, and statements of the relevant law and identification evidence, in place of witness statements, Article 12 (2) (b) merely requires a statement of the offences for which extradition is requested. The time and place of their commission, their legal description and a reference to the relevant legal provisions.

A basic principle of English jurisprudence has been abandoned in the interests of expeditious justice. Extradition cannot be granted if the offence is political or connected with a political offence. Military crimes are also excluded in the convention as in the act. The rule of specialty, that a fugitive shall not be surrendered without an assurance that he will be tried only for the offence for which he is to be extradited, is also maintained. Britain has made some important reservations to the provisions of the convention.

For example, the general obligation in Article 1 to extradite has been accepted, subject to the right to refuse the return of persons convicted or sentenced in their absence. Again, the convention defines extradition offences as those carrying jail sentences of 12 months or more, but after conviction and sentence, at least four months. Britain's reservation preserves 12 months and above in all cases.

A general reservation has been made by the UK to

refuse extradition where it appears, because of the lapse of time since the alleged offence, that it would be unjust or oppressive to return the fugitive. The order bringing the convention into force does not apply to UK dependencies. They have been invited to make representations to have the order applied to them. Hong Kong, the only one to respond, has refused. Nor does the convention

apply to the Republic of Ireland, and Cyprus is to be regarded as a foreign state. Some European countries, such as Belgium and Yugoslavia, are not parties to the convention. The existing treaties and terms of the 1989 Act continue to apply to them. The changes will undoubtedly speed up extraditions from this country. Until now, the 20 to 30 contested cases heard at Bow

Street annually have taken up a great deal of court time. Some cases have taken from two to four weeks.

Effective extradition procedures will help to combat the advantages that modern technology gives the interstate criminal. The European concordat is a crucial step in the right direction.

● The author is a stipendiary magistrate at Bow Street, central London

The rights of a fugitive

Failure to implement the European Convention after 33 years was not due to lack of will. Britain was active in its negotiation at the Council of Europe and was involved in protocols limiting the political safeguard on war crimes and determining the conditions in which fiscal offences could lead to extradition.

The obstacle was the reconciling of English criminal law and procedures with those of European countries. The signatories decided not to require requesting states that are parties to the convention to provide evidence justifying the fugitive's criminal for trial in Britain.

Acceptance of the convention into English law follows the Extradition Act 1989. The important change for Britain is that the convention does not ask requesting states for evidence of a fugitive's guilt, only an arrest warrant, a statement of the charge, the time and place, copies of the relevant legal provisions, and an accurate description of the person claimed. In the case of a convicted person, it requires only a copy of the conviction order and identification evidence. Consequently, the fugitive's protection is reduced.

Most states, including Britain, reserve the right to refuse extradition on humanitarian grounds, mainly in cases involving the death penalty.

Britain refuses extradition if it may cause problems for Britain, if fugitives requested by European states that have incorporated the convention challenge the effectiveness of their protection here.

One big issue for lawyers is that the convention diminishes the chances of resisting surrender by removing the evidence requirement. Another is that the removal of the requirement is balanced by increasing reliance on the European Convention on Human Rights. That convention establishes the rule of law on extradition and fair trial.

Most of the parties to the Extradition Convention have incorporated the Human Rights Convention into their domestic law. Fugitives in those states can raise European Convention issues in their domestic courts. Britain has accepted the right of individual petition to the European Commission of Human Rights but has not incorporated the convention. Therefore, fugitives in Britain can apply only to Strasbourg for their rights to be vindicated. They can use it to prevent unjust surrender and to protect the fairness of their trial even though they are to be surrendered outside the convention's protection zone. Several fugitives have done this, and one has been successful in the European Court. Although other states share

this anomalous approach, it may cause problems for Britain, if fugitives requested by European states that have incorporated the convention challenge the effectiveness of their protection here.

COLIN NICHOLLS, QC
CLIVE NICHOLLS, QC

Ordeals that can humiliate children

I CANNOT believe that many adults would stand willingly in a courtroom and tell a large group of strangers about their sexual experiences. Would you be prepared to say when they happened and with whom and then give explicit anatomical details? Of course not. Yet our courts expect children to do this in sexual abuse cases.

Attempts to mitigate this ghastly experience have proceeded slowly. Most children, not unnaturally, regard it as worse than the abuse itself. As a result many refuse to testify. Even the use of screens to prevent the alleged victim from seeing the alleged perpetrator have not been taken up as much as they could have been. In a case last summer the boy witnesses were standing only a metre or so away from the teachers accused of abusing them. Other cases never come to court at all because the children cannot cope. A girl of 16 who, while looking about 20, has a mental age of only eight will never give evidence against her abuser because the Crown Prosecution Service realises that she will crumble under cross-examination.

When the criminal justice bill, now in its final stages in the Lords, becomes law this summer, the use of modern technology may help to avoid the worst aspects of such a situation. Yet what is envisaged does not go far enough.

Based on the Pigot committee's report, one section of the bill proposes that a child's initial statement may be recorded and allowed to be used as evidence in court. Another recommendation, that cross-examination should also be recorded, has not been taken up. Instead the video-link, whereby the child is cross-examined through a television link from another room of the court, has been extended to include children over 14. However, this will still be used only at the judge's discretion.

Given that courts have not adopted screens with any great enthusiasm, their extensive use of the video-link seems unlikely. Yet, if no recording is to be allowed, then surely the video-link should be mandatory for cross-examination in sexual abuse cases. More than that, the child should be able to have a trusted adult who can explain counsel's questions. Some of their convoluted, complicated language can barely be understood by an adult, let alone a child. Another problem, not yet dealt with in the bill, is how the original video-recordings will be made, by whom and with whom.

Nobody with experience of children believes they can produce a pat statement of what happened. In the experience of social workers and psychotherapists, it can

take months or years for children to disclose what happened to them. Children always blame themselves at the start and if they are isolated, either in the family or by the fact that there is no adult they feel they can trust, the difficulties are immense. Diagnostic interviews with trained staff would be necessary, but we are more likely to end up with attempts at such interviews by child protection teams with insufficient funds or staff to do them properly.

For a start, the technology itself requires a trained film-maker. Having watched some early attempts at such video-recordings, I found I could neither see nor hear what was going on. The NSPCC and the Children's Legal Centre is pushing for a statutory code of practice that would give directions on the conduct of interviews for video-recordings. When that will happen or how it will work in practice is quite another matter. The main thrust of the Pigot committee was to keep the child as far from the live court experience as possible. That is not happening. All we are doing is dipping a toe into modern technology when what is needed is a far more radical approach.

The concept of the examining magistrate may be alien to English law, but a non-adversarial approach would be far more satisfactory in all child abuse cases. A judge could talk to the child directly, examine all the evidence and listen to all the lawyers without, in most cases, any necessity for the child to go to court. If we cannot go that far, at least we could try the Californian

approach, in which counselling and therapy start at the beginning, along with, although separate from, the investigation. Gail Abarbanel, the director of a rape crisis centre in Santa Monica, started the project two years ago. Stuart House was set up because she and her colleagues were distressed by the number of children they saw who were having to go through the appalling experience of telling and retelling their stories of abuse to different agencies. With a mixture of private and public funding, the scheme is working well, thanks to the cooperation of the police, local hospital, social workers, therapists and the local district attorney.

Before the case is heard the children are taken to see the court and even meet the judge. They know who is to be in the court and what they are trying to do. Such a humane approach cannot be impossible in Britain to ensure that children need no longer be emotionally destroyed before a room full of strangers.

● The author is a chairman of an inner London juvenile court.



BRIEF

PAULA DAVIES

Lawyers told to cut charges

ACCESS to justice is also a hot potato on the other side of the Atlantic. While Britain's legal profession awaits discussion on reforms to civil legal aid, lawyers in Ontario are preparing for a similar debate. However, proposals before the province's government are the opposite of those floated here by Lord Mackay of Clashfern. Ontario is toying with setting up publicly funded universal legal-expenses coverage. Rumours and the appointment of a policy adviser to examine ways of improving access to justice have left lawyers unhappy at the thought of ending up on the government payroll. The government is worried about the rising costs of going to law; the premier, Bob Rae, and the attorney-general, have threatened government action.

Pension protest

A RULING from Europe in the case referred last week by an industrial tribunal in Leeds, in which a man alleges sex discrimination in a company pension scheme, could be made next January,

INNS AND OUTS

according to the pensions lawyer in the case, Robert West, of Baker & McKenzie. That will be welcome news to the British pensions industry, which is awaiting clarification of the law on pensions by the European Court in the wake of last May's landmark Euro ruling in the case of Barber and the Guardian Royal Exchange. This said pension benefits had to be equalised. There has been confusion over whether the effect of the ruling applies before the date judgment was given. Actuaries estimate that the cost to the industry, if the answer is yes, could be £50 billion.

Young judgment

THE Young Solicitors' Group of the Law Society is not just those who are fresh out of finals. It represents about half the profession, those aged up to 40. It is interesting, therefore, that the group is urging radical reforms to the way in which judges are selected and treated. The group is suggesting compulsory retirement for judges at 65 and power for a judicial appointments commission to recommend to the Lord Chancellor the temporary suspension or retirement of serving judges.

EC crib

DO YOUR executives discuss prices, restrictions on choices of manufacturers or confidential market information with your competitors? If the answer is "Yes", they are probably in breach of European competition law. However, a survey of 100 leading French and UK companies and professional advisers conducted by the London law firm



Theodore Goddard, says more than 60 per cent of UK companies take no account of EC competition laws when entering a transaction. This compares with 24 per cent of French companies. At least the British companies have an excuse for the laxity; 64 per cent of them declared some ignorance of EC law, compared with only 8 per cent of

the French companies. Quick to recognise an opportunity, the law firm is now offering an anti-trust audit for the all-in fee of £5,000. This is cheap when a breach of the law can lead to a fine equivalent to 10 per cent of the company's turnover.

Jail aid

A PROJECT by the Howard League for Penal Reform and the National Council for Civil Liberties has resulted in the launch this month of the Prisoners' Advice Service to give those in custody advice on rights. Such a service for prisoners has been discussed by penal reform groups since the early Eighties but, so far, advice has been offered from miscellaneous sources on a piecemeal basis.

Mini boom

QUARRY Dougall, a firm of recruitment consultants, says its placement activity in the first three months of the year is 58 per cent higher than in the same period last year. Gareth Quarry, a director, says: "We decided this was worth an announcement." He says there has been a marked increase in the number of senior lawyers and partners who see the present market as a good time to capitalise on their skills and client followings.

SCRIVENOR

Trial and error don't mix.

An error anywhere in the litigation process can destroy a case. Especially if the case goes to trial.

At Arthur Andersen, accuracy is our byword. Our reputation for thoroughness is founded on many years of advising on major commercial disputes. In London, we have forty professionals dedicated to assisting solicitors and other clients throughout the litigation process, from discovery to trial.

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Role of reason in homelessness

Regina v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, Ex parte Rouf

Before Lord Justice Dillon, Lord Justice Stocker and Sir David Croom-Johnson (Judgment May 15)

On the true construction of section 60(3) of the Housing Act 1985, it did not have to be reasonable for a person to be doing or omitting to do something in good faith, for the act or omission to be treated as not deliberate for the purposes of section 60(1).

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing an appeal by Abdul Rouf from the dismissal on February 13, 1991 by Mr Justice Popplewell of his application for judicial review of a decision by Tower Hamlets London Borough Council on October 23, 1989 that Mr Rouf and his family had made themselves intentionally homeless, quashing that decision and remitting the matter for reconsideration.

Section 60 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) A person becomes homeless intentionally if he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy..."

Mr Robert Latham for Mr Rouf, Mr Franklin Evans for the

council.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON said that Mr Rouf, who first came to England from Bangladesh in 1963 and had the right of settlement, was in 1984 granted the tenancy of a flat by Hackney London Borough Council.

When in 1985 Mr Rouf and his family went back to Bangladesh, a friend of Mr Rouf's was allowed into occupation of the flat on the condition that he paid the rent and in June 1987 the flat was repossessed.

Between 1985 and their return to England in 1988 the family occupied a house in Bangladesh. When they returned they found the flat boarded up and Mr Rouf made a homeless person application to Tower Hamlets Council.

In due course, after interviews and enquiries, the council decided that it was reasonable for the family to have continued to occupy the accommodation in Bangladesh, and that by leaving it they had rendered themselves intentionally homeless.

The grounds of the application for judicial review were that the council erred in treating Mr Rouf's act in leaving the Bangladesh accommodation as deliberate when Mr Rouf had done so in good faith when he was unaware of a relevant fact, namely that the Hackney flat had been repossessed, and that the council erred in making its decision without considering whether the act was so done in good faith.

It was indeed the case that at no stage did the council put to Mr Rouf that, in view of his failure to make enquiries whether the Hackney flat was still available, it might be con-

cluded that he had not acted in good faith. It only addressed itself to the question whether it was reasonable for him to come back without making such enquiries.

The case was argued before the judge on the footing that Mr Rouf had an honest belief that the flat was still available and one issue argued was whether it was necessary to establish that such belief must be reasonable.

The judge said: "Was it a conclusion to which the council could properly come, to take the view that to return to this country without making any enquiry about the state of the accommodation was unreasonable? ... If it decides that it is unreasonable and there is material upon which it can properly come to that conclusion, this court will not interfere, whatever its own view."

That approach was incorrect. If Mr Rouf's act in consequence of which the family ceased to occupy the house in Bangladesh was not deliberate within section 60(3), they were not intentionally homeless within subsection (1).

The question of the interplay between the subsections was not an easy one, and it would make better sense of the section if there were a qualification of reasonableness in subsection (3).

However, his Lordship reluctantly concluded that it was not possible to read such a qualification into the subsection, whose emphasis was purely on whether there was good faith and whether the applicant was unaware of a relevant fact.

There was every reason to suppose that Mr Rouf was unaware of the repossession of the flat. Whether his leaving Bangladesh in the belief that the flat was still available was in good faith might be open to question, by reason of the failure to make enquiries, but the council did not address itself to that issue, and it was not possible to conclude that Mr Rouf did not act in good faith because he did not act reasonably.

LORD JUSTICE STOCKER, concurring, said that whether a person was or was not unaware of a relevant fact posed a straight question of fact, and the test in subsection (3) was not strictly one of belief at all.

Sir David Croom-Johnson delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Harman Garfinkel & Co, Finsbury Park; Ms Mireille Forman, Tower Hamlets.

Leave not required for appealing order

Atlas Maritime Co SA v Avalon Maritime Ltd

An appeal against the grant or refusal of an application to vary an injunction came within section 18(1)(b)(iii) of the Supreme Court Act 1981, and accordingly leave to appeal was not required.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Nicholls and Lord Justice Fargher) so held on May 1 on applications by the plaintiffs, Atlas Maritime Co SA, for leave to appeal and for an extension of time for appealing against the

order of Mr Justice Phillips varying a *Mareva* (asset-freezing) injunction granted against the defendants, Avalon Maritime Ltd, to enable them to meet legal expenses.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that although paragraph (iii) of section 18(1)(b) had not mentioned a variation, if the application to vary succeeded, then a new injunction was granted.

If the application was refused, then a new injunction was not put in place, but was refused. That was within the terms of paragraph (iii).

Where an application had been made for a *Mareva* injunction (asset-freezing order) and it had been contended that an undertaking should be enforced by a guarantee for a certain amount, it was not for the judge to decide the matter upon a consideration that an amount of security

of the late Mr C. R. Pilkington, Mr Nicholas Pilkington and Mr John Ingham.

Section 42 of the 1965 Act provides: "(2) Any beneficiary under the settlement who is domiciled and either resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom during any year of assessment shall be treated for the purposes of this Part of this Act as if an apportioned part of the amount, if any, on which the trustees would have been chargeable to capital gains tax under section 20(4) of this Act, if domiciled and either resident or ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom in that year of assessment, had been chargeable gains accruing to the beneficiary in that year of assessment; and for the purposes of this section any such amount shall be apportioned in such manner as is just and reasonable between persons having interests in the settled property..."

Section 42 was replaced by the provisions for gains of non-resident settlements in sections 80 to 84 of the Finance Act 1981.

Mr Nicholas Warren for the Crown; Mr David Milne, QC,

greater than that which had been suggested by the interested party was necessary.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Mustill and Lord Justice Nourse) so held on May 13 when remitting the matter in whole but allowing the appeal in part of the plaintiff, Southway Group Ltd, against the refusal of Mr Justice Warner on March 19, 1991 to grant a *Mareva* injunction in their action for specific performance against Esther and Morris Wolff.

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE said that the judge should have said that he was not prepared to grant the injunction unless the undertaking was fortified to the extent suggested and he was in error for not giving the applicant an opportunity to so fortify it.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Robert Davies & Co, Warrington.

Non-resident trustees and gains

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said that each beneficiary had been entitled to a one-third share of the trust fund continuing on surviving until July 2, 1973.

In February 1973 new, Guernsey-resident trustees were appointed. On June 5, 1973 the beneficiaries assigned their interests in the settlement to a Guernsey company. On June 6 the Guernsey trustees sold the trust investments and on July 2, 1973, when the settlement duly came to an end, they paid the cash to the Guernsey company.

The June 6 sale was a disposal as a result of which chargeable gains accrued to the trustees. Being non-resident they could not be assessed to tax. Instead the inspector assessed the beneficiaries under section 42(2) by apportioning to them the gains on which the trustees would, if resident, have been liable.

It was agreed that he was entitled to do so if the beneficiaries had "interests in the settled property" at the relevant time. The issue was what the relevant time was.

The beneficiaries said that it was the date on which the settlement came to an end and the only person then having such an interest was the Guernsey company. The commissioner had accepted that view.

The Crown submitted that the relevant time was any time within the relevant year of assessment. The beneficiaries, it was argued, had interests until the date of the assignments and the terms of the assignments gave them the benefit of virtually the whole of the gains so that it was just and reasonable to apportion the gains between them.

The drafting of section 42(2) made it impossible to produce from it any consistent and sensible scheme. No construction put on it would do justice in all cases. It was not surprising that in 1981 Parliament had scrapped it.

The view favoured by the commissioner had the advantage of simplicity and a certain schematic consistency. It was the correct interpretation.

Security amount not for the judge

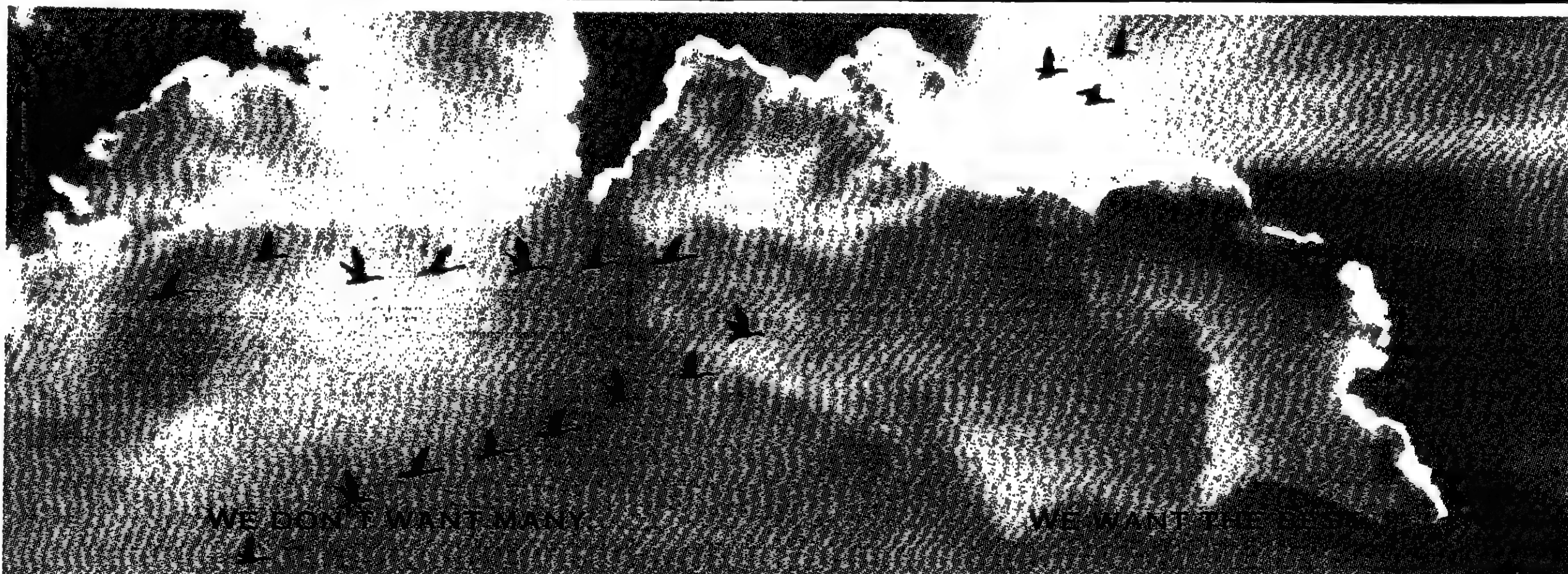
Southway Group Ltd v Wolff and Another

Where an application had been made for a *Mareva* injunction (asset-freezing order) and it had been contended that an undertaking should be enforced by a guarantee for a certain amount, it was not for the judge to decide the matter upon a consideration that an amount of security

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هكذا من الأعمال

The crime-fighters who put public interest first

One of the more unusual cases in which the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) was involved last year was the first prosecution under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for disturbing bats while in roost. The CPS began in October, 1986, taking over from the police the responsibility for the prosecution of all criminal cases resulting from police investigations in England and Wales, except for certain minor offences.

Each year, 1.6 million cases are prosecuted and more than 85 per cent result in convictions. The service has room for 2,053 lawyers, either barristers or solicitors, but at the end of February this year, there were only about 1,740. The service also employs 900 law clerks and 2,600 administrative staff.

"We are looking for about 300 lawyers," Mike Crisp, the head of recruitment, says. The recent shortage of lawyers has affected recruitment, but the number of experienced people applying for posts is increasing.

The service also recruits up to 200 legal trainees. Entrants must have a minimum of a conditional pass in either the solicitors' or the barristers' articles of clerkship or offer for two years after satisfactory completion of

The Crown Prosecution Service, responsible for putting criminals behind bars, wants new minds. Joan Llewelyn Owens reports

final examinations. Barrister pupils spend their first six months in a non-practising pupillage in chambers specialising in civil law. The second six months is spent in a practising pupillage with an experienced CPS advocate.

Crown prosecutors are given responsibility from the start, although under supervision. "Their role," Mr Crisp says, "is quite different from that of a lawyer in private practice. We are not subject to instructions of clients." Crown prosecutors have to ask themselves if a new case has sufficient evidence and whether the public interest requires a prosecution.

Managerial and support staff include executive officers, administrative officers (minimum five GCSEs, including English language) and administrative assistants (minimum two GCSEs, including English language).

Executive officers need a minimum of two A-levels (many are graduates). Their work falls within three broad categories: general administration, magistrates court

work and Crown court work. As law clerks in the Crown court section, under the supervision of a lawyer, one of their main duties is to prepare briefs for counsel. A few of these law clerks are sponsored by the CPS to qualify as lawyers. Damaris Jamal, 29, is one. She has been working as a Crown prosecutor at Uxbridge magistrates court, London, for eight months.

Miss Jamal, who has a degree in classics from Durham university, completed a diploma in law, intending to become a barrister. After a period working in a police station, she joined the Metropolitan Solicitor's Department, which became part of the CPS. After becoming a law clerk, she was sponsored for the Bar finals, which involved a year's study leave and a year's pupillage. Advocacy training and practice in cross-examination were provided during the year at the Inns of Court school of law and the CPS has given her further training. "I have no interest in civil law,

and I enjoy the prosecution side," she says. "This work is ideal for me. Junior barristers have to take what they get, whether civil or criminal cases."

She conducted her first case during the second six months of pupillage. "I was given the papers the night before and it was not such an ordeal as I had expected. Of course, you are nervous the first time you do anything. I didn't know whether I was going to be any good as an advocate."

Now Miss Jamal usually spends two days in court one week, and three days the next. She spends the rest of her working week in the branch office, at Acton, west London doing her own work or assisting the unit that conducts the first reviews of cases.

"I have a varied workload, ranging from deceptions and nasty assaults to basic traffic cases, with theft and burglary and some minor public order matters," she says.

Miss Jamal says she enjoys advocacy "because no two things are the same and you have to think and act swiftly, coping with what happens as it happens. You have to cope with the fact that the defence might not do what you anticipate. It is exciting."

● Crown Prosecution Service, 4-12 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AZ.



Courting responsibility: young crown prosecutor Damaris Jamal outside Uxbridge magistrates' court

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The Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority wishes to appoint a new Director General of the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive.

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Application form and further details can be obtained from Gordon Hainworth Clerk to the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority, P.O. Box 532, Room 218, Town Hall, Manchester, M60 2LA.

Telephone inquiries 061 234 3263.

Closing date for the receipt of application forms is 21st June 1991.

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For internal discussions relating to the post, interested individuals are welcome to contact: Mr David Williams on 0257 227481.

Application forms, job descriptions and further details are available from: The Employment Services Department, St David's Hospital, Carmarthen, Dyfed SA31 3HE.

Closing date for receipt of applications: May 31, 1991.

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Closing date for receipt of application forms 17th June 1991.

Short list interviews will be held in London on 9th September 1991.

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Informal enquiries to: Mrs E. M. Day, Clinical Services Manager. Tel: 071-794 0431 ext 2746.

Application form and job description from: Personnel Department, 21 Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2PN. Tel: 071-794 0431 ext 2702/2704.

Closing date: May 31, 1991.

Continued on next page

ROWING

St Paul's achieve a notable double

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOL crews, keen to experience a last warm-up before the national schools regatta at Nottingham this weekend, dominated the racing at a ten-hour Thames Ditton regatta on Saturday. St Paul's, with their best crew for many years, won both the senior one and senior two eights, narrowly beating their rivals, St Edward's and Winchester.

Even winners of the schools head and favourites for Nottingham, surprisingly avoided senior category competition and won the school eights, producing the fastest time of the day in the final against Kingston Grammar, in spite of limited time in an eight because of Great Britain commitments in Ghent and Nottingham.

In the four events, Winchester's coxless combination looked impressive in senior one when losing a close final to a powerful Molesey crew, and Kingston Grammar's senior one four were the outstanding team on show, with a line-up including potential Great Britain junior competitors.

The younger age group, racing at Thames Ditton, was fiercely competitive and illustrated the rising standards of coaching that have recently fed through so many medal winners to the Great Britain team. Among the youngsters, St Edward's won twice in eights and Windsor Boys continued to produce four with eye-catching technique.

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BAIN CLARKSON SECOND XI TROPHY: Lancashire v Lancashire, Worcester v Somerset.

FOOTBALL

England v Soviet Union (at Wembley, 8.00).

OTHER SPORT

POL: David Belling Cup (Chesham v Bath, 8.00); Queen's Cup (Glasgow, 8.00).

Victory opens the way for a return to the top in the women's world tennis rankings

Graf recovery earns reward

STEFFI Graf came back from the brink of defeat to win her fifth German open title in six years in Berlin yesterday, and open the way for her return to the top of the world rankings in the women's game.

Graf, at present the world No. 2, won a tense match against Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6, after recovering from a 5-3 deficit in a fluctuating final set to claim the 57th tournament victory of her career.

Afterwards, the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) confirmed that Graf would regain her former status if she won the French open championship which begins in Paris next week. It would be the third time she has won that event.

"If Graf wins at Roland Garros, she will be No. 1 ahead of Monica Seles," a WTA spokeswoman said. "Even if she just reaches the final, she could still do it if other top players are knocked out early."

Graf, the top seed, got off to a quick start in the first set in Berlin, breaking Sanchez Vicario in the fourth game to lead 3-1. They traded service games until the seventh, when Sanchez Vicario broke back, making it 4-3. Graf promptly restored her advantage, and held service to win the set 6-3.

Yet though Graf opened the second set by breaking the fifth-seeded Sanchez Vicario in the first game without losing a point, she lost her way. First services that had been finding the lines began to miss, and double-faults gave the Spaniard a timely advantage.

Her rival opened a 5-2 lead, and although she clawed her way back to 5-4, Graf's final service was found wanting once again, and Sanchez Vicario won the set.

The third set followed the same pattern of errors and long, probing baseline rallies, and Graf succeeded in opening a 5-2 lead. The match seemed to be hers, but bravely Sanchez Vicario fought her way back to 6-6 before Graf won the tie-break 8-6.

"At the beginning of the third set I felt like I was going to lose," Graf said. "I hadn't been playing well and I had no rhythm, but at 5-3 everything suddenly came back and I felt good again."

"It was so important before the French open to pull out a tough win like that. A few matches this year have gone the other way, so to win was an incredible feeling."

RESULTS: First 5 Graf (West) d Sanchez Vicario (Spa), 6-3, 4-6, 7-6.

Marina Navratilova, of the United States, will aim for her tenth women's singles title in the Pilkington Glass championship at Eastbourne from June 17 to 22.

Navratilova, aged 34, who will also be chasing her tenth Wimbledon singles crown this year, heads a strong field that includes her countrywoman, Zina Garrison, the player she beat in the 1990 Wimbledon final.

Other leading players lined up for Eastbourne include Mary Joe Fernandez, of the United States, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, of Spain, and Jana Novotna, of Czechoslovakia.



Arms aloft: Graf celebrates her return to winning ways in Berlin yesterday

BASEBALL

Mariners' hopes raised from the depths

By ROBERT KIRLEY

THE Seattle Mariners have raised a wreck and turned it into a speedboat. Personally lost in the briny deep of the American League West — last year they finished 26 games behind the Oakland A's — they have won 12 of 14 games over the last two weeks. Seattle moved into first place ahead of the mighty A's with away victories over the New York Yankees on Friday and Saturday.

The Mariners' boasted eight more wins than losses for the first time in club history. Although the campaign was only six weeks old, that was the latest date on which they had led their division. The Yankees beat the Mariners 3-2 on Sunday, enabling the A's, who defeated the Cleveland Indians, to reclaim first place. Steve Howe, suspended six times in the 1980s in drug-abuse cases, beat Seattle in relief. He had not won in the major leagues since 1987.

Last year, the Cincinnati Reds started first, led the National League West all the way and took the World Series in successive games. This season, they lose as often as they win and their team batting average, .229, is the worst in the league. Only the dismal Houston Astros have scored fewer runs.

The American League suspended Albert Belle, the best hitter for Cleveland, for throwing a ball that struck a heckler in the chest. The heckler allegedly

invited the outfielder to a post-game beer party. Belle missed most of last season while taking part in an alcohol rehabilitation programme. He can play pending a league hearing.

The highest paid player in baseball, Roger Clemens, of the Boston Red Sox, gave up 13 hits and nine runs in a 13-5 loss to the Texas Rangers on Saturday. Brian Downing hit a home run on the first pitch from Clemens, whose earned-run average jumped from 0.95 to 2.18.

Clemens, who had not yielded a home run since last July 8, had won his six previous decisions.

Chuck Finley, of the California Angels, became the first seven-game winner with a 4-2 triumph over the Baltimore Orioles on Saturday. He has lost once. Jim Abbott, the California pitcher who was born with one hand, has won three games in a row after losing his first four decisions of the season.

Results and tables, page 39

Viewers waste few tears on poor Gascoigne

By HENRY KELLY

TIME was, I seem to remember, when the side-shows for the FA Cup final at Wembley took place before the kick-off.

Years ago, the BBC and ITV used to come on air quite early on the Saturday morning and give us a sort of light entertainment run-up to the event: second-rate comedies, would-be so-called lunch parties for their friends from showbusiness, neatly selected to give a balance of support for each of the competing teams; we'd get inside the players' buses, talk to a few wives, hear what they had for breakfast, what newspapers they read (if any), and so on.

Nowadays, the coverage is a little more restrained and none the worse for that. And the nonsense takes place on the field before and during the game.

You will have to believe me when I tell you that ten minutes before the start of the match on Saturday, having had one good look at Paul Gascoigne's face in close-up on the screen, I turned to my viewing companion and said: "He looks as if he won't last half an hour on the pitch."

Then there was his hand-kissing of royalty and general sort of credible carrying-on which, while we have all probably done it ourselves on some occasion, was to lead to such terrible scenes within a few minutes, and perhaps the interruption of a football career for half a year.

The experts have had their say. The humble viewer sitting at home was of a like mind to me if the Saturday and Sunday chat in the local is anything to go by.

Fortunately, it didn't spoil a good match and it gave Bob Wilson and Jimmy Hill the opportunity to say solid, decent things about a solid, decent sport.

On the technical side, it is nit-picking to fault John Sharnbury's production and ideas for coverage. I could, however, have done without seeing the injured Gascoigne going off in an ambulance. And why cannot the BBC plug itself into the public address system at Wembley so that official announcements can be heard clearly and not while Des and Bob and Jimmy are blathering on, however interesting the blather?

For those who like the win frightened out of them, there was an opportunity for some self-induced fear on Sunday

SPORT ON TELEVISION

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

afternoon when the coverage of the motorcycle racing from Donington Park included shots taken from small cameras on some of the participants' crash helmets.

I'm torn between which is more nerve-tugging: that taken from a motorcycle following, or from the fan's front. Either way, it was great stuff.

Those who used to complain that BBC sport on a Sunday afternoon was cricket, cricket and cricket cannot mock now. Sunday Grandstand gave us gymnastics, football, motorcycle racing and a Tony Lewis profile of Viv Richards.

Tucked away on Anglia on Sunday afternoon, however, was the show of the week for me: a profile of the former England manager, Bobby Robson, at work in The Netherlands with his team, PSV Eindhoven. This was just what a telly profile should be: simply filmed, mixing good, solid interviewing with Robson and excerpts from games, and involving just the right number of supporters and those not so enthusiastic. Other ITV regions would do well to buy it and show it.

Finally, it occurred to me over the weekend that Channel 4's new sporting offer early on Sunday evening, the hidden game of kabaddi, is the only sport in the world where the object is contact. As least, I cannot think of another.

This week, Tamil Nadu were playing The Services. No one watching for just a few weeks can possibly have missed the sheer madness of this sport, but isn't it interesting that, with so much contact between the players, there doesn't seem to be any fouling or any injuries? And a nice touch about the school children's admission to the excitement of a good game of kabaddi. Dear me! And all those years ago when we played tag in the school yard we never thought to protest it, well it is Channel 4 and be-on the telly every Sunday at tea-time.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

The Polytechnic of Central London Executive Assistant

LONDON W1. Salary c £25,000

The Top Management of this Higher Education Institution wishes to recruit a numerate man or woman to support the policy development, and the day-to-day administration, as their Executive Assistant, supported by existing secretarial staff.

Candidates must be graduates with excellent computer literate, written and spoken communication skills, and have several years administrative experience with a substantial employer.

An analytical approach to work, experience of researching and drafting reports and policy papers, and familiarity with computer data manipulation are essential for success in this new post. A self-starter who displays energy, confidence and diplomacy and wishes to add high-level experience to their career development is sought.

Please write, with your current CV, making clear how you meet each requirement to the Personnel Department, Polytechnic of Central London, 309 Regent Street, London W1R 8AL quoting reference number HMM/EA. Closing date is 6 June 1991.

PCL is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

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THE FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE

A major international clinical research and post-graduate teaching unit is establishing a charitable trust to launch a ten year capital appeal for £50m for new developments. We are now recruiting for the following posts based in London:

Appeal Director from £35,000 p.a. ref CR/B1

A minimum of five years' innovative fundraising experience is required, preferably with some specialisation in 'big gift' fundraising. Reporting to the Appeal Chairman, you would be responsible for planning and implementing the campaign together with the management of the fundraising team.

You should have a proven track record of achievement in a broad-based fundraising role, and should possess excellent personnel and financial management skills.

Corporate Fundraising Manager from £25,000 p.a. ref CR/B2

Successful 'hands-on' experience of high-level corporate fundraising is essential. Reporting to the Appeal Director, and with the support of a small specialised team, you will be responsible for developing and implementing an overall corporate fundraising strategy to include budget targets and appropriate action plans.

You should be fully conversant with all areas of corporate fundraising including major donations, sponsorship, gifts in kind and promotions.

Please send your CV in strictest confidence to Lauren Bates at CR Charity Recruitment, 40 Rosebery Avenue, London EC1R 4RN. Telephone: 071-833 0770. Please quote the appropriate reference. Closing date 10 June 1991.

CHARITY RECRUITMENT

Fife Health Board

Priority Care Unit

UNIVERSITY MANAGER

c.£40K + performance related pay
Fife Health Board is an innovative and progressive authority with a commitment to providing a high quality range of services throughout the Kingdom for the people it serves. The Priority Care Unit is responsible for the service provision of all Mental Illness, Mental Handicap and Care of the Elderly Services. We are now seeking an enthusiastic Manager to lead the Unit operation.

With a budget of £3m, 2,600 staff, 9 hospitals and 1,800 beds, it is a crucial management post. You will be responsible for the continuing development of services as well as leading highly motivated medical, nursing, para-medical, professional and technical managers. The demands of the White Paper initiatives add to this enormous challenge.

You must have proven management skills and be able to demonstrate excellent organisational, general management and leadership abilities. In addition, you will have a proven track record of success at senior management level, either within the National Health Service, the Public, or the Private Sector.

In return, we offer a first class salary and benefits package, including car lease scheme, performance related pay and relocation assistance where appropriate.

A comprehensive information pack is available from the Directorate of Manpower Services, Fife Health Board, Glenrothes House, North Street, Glenrothes, Fife KY3 5PB. Tel 0592 754335 ext 444.

Closing date for applications 24th May 1991.

LEGAL NOTICES

Continued from page 17

IN THE MATTER OF

BRISTOL NORTH BEAU

LONDON

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They copied our triangle because they couldn't match our beer.

In 1777, when William Bass brewed his first pint, more people knew how to drink than how to read.

So while they quickly recognised and approved of the nutty, malty taste of Draught Bass, the letters B A S S meant nothing to them.

In answer to the question "Do you serve William Bass's ale, good fellow?" the unscrupulous landlord had simply to say "Yes" and the customer was none the wiser. Until he tasted the beer.

This doubtless led to a certain amount of tap room unrest, so, to counter the problem, in 1876 William's grandson Michael Bass filed the UK's first trade mark. The famous Bass 'red triangle' label.

This was not quite the end of the tale. So superior was a pint of Bass, that

counterfeit red triangles began to crop up everywhere.

Some of the offenders were brought to book. But justice mainly ran a more natural course.

For while the trademark was easy enough to copy, nobody could reproduce the unique taste and distinctive character of our beer.

200 years later, not much has changed.

Our trademark is still protected by law. And thanks to the skill and dedication of our

present day brewers, no-one else has yet managed to brew a pint quite like Draught Bass.



Just a few of the 1900 recorded attempts to imitate the famous Bass red triangle trademark.

YOU CAN TELL IT WITH YOUR EYES CLOSED

